



Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Friday, May 9, 2014
3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Convention Center
Room 102

Councilmember Diego Bernal	Tri-Chair	Present
Marise McDermott	Tri-Chair	Present
Sue Ann Pemberton, FAIA	Tri-Chair	Present
Howard Peak	1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Representative	Present
Ramon J. Vasquez	History/Archeology Representative	Present
Dr. Steve Tomka	History/Archeology Representative	Present
Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek	History/Archeology Representative	Present
Larry L. Laine	State of Texas Designee	Absent
Mardi Arce	Federal Government Designee	Present
Frank Z. Ruttenberg	Private Property Owner Representative	Present
Davis Phillips	Tourism Designee	Present
Vacant	District 1 Appointee	
Anthony Edwards	District 2 Appointee	Present
Patricia Mejia	District 3 Appointee	Present
Rudolph F. Rodriguez	District 4 Appointee	Present
Gabe Farias	District 5 Appointee	Present
Rudi Rodriguez	District 6 Appointee	Present
Ed Torres	District 7 Appointee	Present
Boone Powell, FAIA	District 8 Appointee	Present
Bill Brendell	District 9 Appointee	Present
Jack Judson	District 10 Appointee	Present

Others Present: Colleen Swain (CCDO), Sarah Esserlieu (CCDO), Mimi Quintanilla (Consultant, Facilitator), Alan Hantman, FAIA (Consultant, Architect, present via Skype), Christopher Looney (DSD), Carol Warkoczewski (TCI), Pat Schneider (TCI), Rodney Dziuk (TCI), Kaye Tucker (GLO)

DISABILITY ACCESS STATEMENT



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1. Welcome by Committee Tri-Chairs
2. Introductions of staff, consultants, and committee members (see previous page).
3. Overview of ordinance and committee goals (DOCUMENTS ATTACHED) by Colleen Swain.
4. Overview of Committee Binders by Colleen Swain: The committee was provided with a binder containing the following: a list of the committee members, the committee purpose and goals, the ordinance approving the committee and its process, a schedule of coming meetings, the 1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Report and Recommendations to Council, the 2012 Project for Public Spaces Placemaking Report, a timeline of events at the Alamo, and the consultant biographies.
5. Overview of the meeting ground rules, timeline, and schedule by Mimi Quintanilla (DOCUMENTS ATTACHED. Note: schedule subject to change).
6. Overview of 1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Report and 2012 Project for Public Spaces Placemaking Report by Colleen Swain (DOCUMENTS ATTACHED).
7. Wrap up, meeting adjourned.

ATTACHMENT 1
Agenda Memorandum to the Ordinance



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:14-407

Agenda Item Number: 4.

Agenda Date: 3/6/2014

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Center City Development Office

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Lori Houston

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Council District 1

SUBJECT:

Alamo Plaza Master Planning Process

SUMMARY:

This ordinance approves a process, strategy and next steps for the development of a comprehensive master plan for Alamo Plaza and the surrounding area, to include the establishment of a 21 member Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee. Alamo Plaza is located in Council District 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On November 19, 2013, a Council Consideration Request was submitted by Councilman Diego Bernal. The CCR requested that staff recommend a process, strategy, and next steps for a comprehensive master planning effort for Alamo Plaza that is respectful of the Plaza and the Alamo's history.

In December 2013, City staff provided a briefing to the Governance Committee on proposed next steps. City staff was then directed to brief the Quality of Life Committee, on February 18, 2014. The Quality of Life Committee then directed City staff to proceed to City Council for consideration.

A comprehensive master plan will be the guiding document for the redevelopment of Alamo Plaza and its surrounding area. The master plan will identify physical improvements to Alamo Plaza as well as the facilitation of development that would respect the history of the Plaza and the Alamo. The master plan will address interpretation opportunities, signage, traffic calming, design guidelines, zoning overlays, as well as other strategies that promote its development.

In 1994, an Alamo Plaza Study Committee was formed and a report completed. That report will serve as a framework for the master plan development. The 1994 report identified 5 interpretive themes and goals for Alamo Plaza that share the story of the people and their culture, provides the history of Texas and the City of San Antonio, and symbolizes man's quest for self-determination. The Report also provides a work plan that supports such themes and goals, as well as identifying opportunities for museums and history centers, living history exhibits, street closures, a management plan, and interpretive methods.

For the purpose of aiding in the development of the master plan, City staff is proposing the creation of a 21-member Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee. City staff is proposing eleven members to be appointed by the Mayor to include 3 tri-chairs and 8 members representative of the following categories:

- (1) member from the 1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Report;
- (3) members from the fields of History and Archeology;
- (1) member representing the State of Texas;
- (1) member representing the Federal Government;
- (1) member representing Private Property Owners; and
- (1) member from the field of Tourism.

Additionally, City staff is also recommending each City Council District appoint an at large member to the committee.

The Committee's purpose would be to: 1) assist with the update of the 1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Study Report; 2) create a vision and guiding principles for the redevelopment of Alamo Plaza and surrounding area; 3) assist in the development of the scope of work for the master plan; and 4) provide general oversight of the development of the master plan.

Upon appointment of the Committee by Mayor and City Council, the Committee would initiate the update to the 1994 Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee Report as well as the creation of the vision and guiding principles for the redevelopment of Alamo Plaza. These items will be used to develop a scope of work for advertisement.

City Staff will return to City Council in early 2015 with a recommendation for a master plan team. The development of the master plan will take approximately 6 months and staff will return to City Council in early Fall 2015 for the adoption of the master plan.

ISSUE:

City staff will present proposed next steps regarding the development of a comprehensive master plan for Alamo Plaza to include the creation of an Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee and timeline for the development of a comprehensive master plan for Alamo Plaza.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could recommend an alternative process or that no action be taken to develop a comprehensive master plan for Alamo Plaza.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves the recommendations and next steps for the development of a comprehensive master plan for Alamo Plaza and the surrounding area. Funds to develop the comprehensive Alamo Plaza Master Plan are available from the 2012 Bond Program. A master plan is an eligible expense and funding in the amount of \$1 million is currently available. Staff will return to City Council in early 2015 with a recommendation for the master plan team and the execution of a contract.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed process for the development of an Alamo Plaza Master Plan and composition of the Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee.

ATTACHMENT 2
Ordinance Authorizing the Alamo Plaza
Advisory Committee

AN ORDINANCE 2014 - 03 - 06 - 0127

APPROVING A PROCESS, STRATEGY AND FUTURE STEPS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR ALAMO PLAZA AND SURROUNDING AREA, TO INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 21 MEMBER ALAMO PLAZA ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, in 1994, the Alamo Plaza Study Committee was commissioned to undertake and complete a report (the "Report") on Alamo Plaza; and

WHEREAS, the Report identified interpretive themes and goals for Alamo Plaza that would share the story of the people and their culture; provide the history of Texas and the City of San Antonio; symbolize man's quest for self-determination, as well as provide a work plan that supports such themes and goals and identifies opportunities for museums, history centers, living history exhibits, street closures, a management plan, and interpretive methods; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the recommendations of the City Council's Governance and Quality of Life Committees, City staff is recommending the establishment of an Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee (the "Committee") for the purpose of: 1) assisting in the updating of the Report; 2) creating a vision and guiding principles for the redevelopment of Alamo Plaza and surrounding area; 3) assisting in the development of the scope of work for the development of a master plan for Alamo Plaza; and 4) providing general oversight of the development and implementation of the master plan upon its completion; and

WHEREAS, upon its establishment and the appointment of its members, the Committee would initiate the update to the Report and the creation of the vision and guiding principles for the redevelopment of Alamo Plaza; **NOW THEREFORE:**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. City Council approves the establishment of the Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee consisting of twenty-one (21) members as follows:

A) Eleven (11) members shall be appointed by the Mayor, to include 3 tri-chairs and 8 members representative of the following categories:

- (1) member from the 1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Report;
- (3) members from the fields of History and Archeology;
- (1) member representing the State of Texas;
- (1) member representing the Federal Government;
- (1) member representing Private Property Owners; and

(1) member from the field of Tourism.

B) Additionally, each City Council District shall appoint an at-large member to the committee.

The City Council waives the standard boards and commissions rules as they may relate to the Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes or, if less than eight affirmative votes are received, on the tenth day after passage.

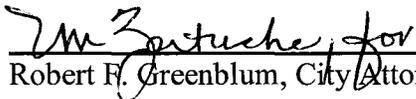
PASSED AND APPROVED this 6th day of March, 2014.


M A Y O R
Julián Castro

ATTEST:


Leticia M. Vaca, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Robert F. Greenblum, City Attorney

Agenda Item:	4
Date:	03/06/2014
Time:	09:55:45 AM
Vote Type:	Motion to Approve
Description:	An Ordinance approving a process, strategy and future steps for the development of a comprehensive master plan for Alamo Plaza and the surrounding area, to include the establishment of a 21 member Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Lori Houston, Director, Center City Development Office]
Result:	Passed

Voter	Group	Not Present	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
Julián Castro	Mayor		x				
Diego Bernal	District 1		x			x	
Ivy R. Taylor	District 2		x				
Rebecca Viagran	District 3		x				
Rey Saldaña	District 4		x				
Shirley Gonzales	District 5		x				
Ray Lopez	District 6		x				
Cris Medina	District 7		x				x
Ron Nirenberg	District 8	x					
Joe Krier	District 9		x				
Michael Gallagher	District 10		x				

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
Center City Development Office



City Council Meeting
Item #4

March 6, 2014

Lori Houston, Director

Background

- On November 19, 2013, a Council Consideration Request was submitted by Councilman Diego Bernal.
 - Requested that staff make a recommendation regarding a process, strategy, and next steps for a comprehensive master planning effort for Alamo Plaza that is respectful of the Plaza and the Alamo's history.
- On December 18, 2013, the Governance Committee directed staff to return to the Quality of Life Committee in February with the recommended process and next steps.
- On February 18, 2014, the Quality of Life Committee directed staff to proceed to City Council.



Recommendation

1. Initiate a comprehensive master planning effort in and around Alamo Plaza that will:
 - Establish a master plan to identify physical improvements to Alamo Plaza as well as facilitate development that is respectful of the Plaza and the Alamo's history.
 - The master plan will:
 - Address interpretation, signage, traffic calming, design guidelines, zoning overlays, as well as other strategies that promote appropriate and desirable uses
 - Consider the recommendations of the 1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Report as updated by an Advisory Committee
 - Include opportunities for public and stakeholder input



Recommendation

2. Create a Committee that will:

- Assist with the update of the 1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Report
- Create a vision and guiding principles for the redevelopment of Alamo Plaza and surrounding area
- Assist in the development of the scope of work for the master plan
- Participate in the selection of a master plan consultant
- Provide general oversight of the master plan development



1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Report

- Committee Composition
 - Co-chairs Mayor Howard Peak and Councilman Roger Perez
 - 22 members representative of various stakeholder groups
- Identified 5 interpretive themes and goals for Alamo Plaza
 1. Evolution of settlements and cultures at Alamo Plaza
 2. Tell the story of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo
 3. Alamo Plaza represents a continuum of urban development and commerce in San Antonio (The plaza through time.)
 4. Alamo Plaza: The number 1 destination for tourism in Texas
 5. This Hallowed Ground: Alamo Plaza (reverence and sacrifice)



1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Report

- Provides a work plan that supports the themes and goals.
 1. Visitor Center/Interpretive History Center/City Museum
 2. Living History Exhibits
 3. Street Closures
 4. Management Plan
 5. Alternative Ways of Disseminating Information
 6. Spatial Definition



Proposed Committee Structure

- **21 Member Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee**
 - **11 Members Appointed by Mayor**
 - (3) Tri-Chairs
 - (8) Committee Members by Category
 - (1) Representative from 1994 Study
 - (3) History/Archeology Designees
 - (1) State of Texas Designee
 - (1) Federal Government Designee
 - (1) Private Property Designee
 - (1) Tourism Designee
 - **10 Members Appointed by City Council**
 - Each Council Member Appoints a Committee Member



Consultants

- Mimi Quintanilla will serve as the facilitator for committee and public meetings and will work with the committee to update the 1994 Report and develop a shared vision and guiding principles for Alamo Plaza.
- Alan M. Hantman, FAIA, will serve as a consultant to the committee and provides a national perspective as it relates to other famous historical sites within the United States.



Staff

- Support Staff:
 - Center City Development Office
- Technical Support Team:
 - Office of Historic Preservation
 - Development Services
 - Planning and Community Development
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Transportation and Capital Improvements
 - Convention and Visitors Bureau
 - Other technical experts as needed



Timeline

- **March 14, 2014** – City Council Appointments due to City Clerk
- **March 2014 – September 2014:** Update 1994 Plan and Create Vision and Guiding Principles
- **October 2014:** City Council Briefing and Issue RFQ for Master Plan Team
- **November 2014:** Issue RFP for Master Plan Team
- **January 2015:** Master Plan Team Interviews and recommendation
- **February 2015:** Council action on Master Plan Team
- **February 2015 – August 2015:** Master Plan Process
- **September 2015:** Master Plan adoption

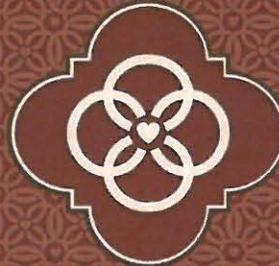
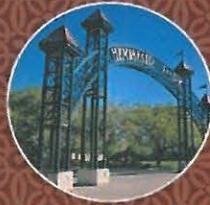


Next Steps

- Mayor to appoint 3 tri-chairs and appoint 8 committee members representative of the following categories: (1) Representative from 1994 Study; (3) History/Archeology Designees; (1) State of Texas Designee; (1) Federal Government Designee; (1) Private Property Designee; and (1) Tourism Designee.
- Each Council Member to submit an appointee to the City Clerks Office to serve on the Committee
- March/April 2014 – Begin Committee Process



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
Center City Development Office



City Council Meeting
Item #4

March 6, 2014

Lori Houston, Director

ATTACHMENT 3
Committee Purpose and Goals

Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee
Purpose*

1. Assist in the update of the 1994 Report
2. Create a vision and guiding principles for the redevelopment of Alamo Plaza and surrounding area
3. Assist in the development of the scope of work for the development of a master plan for Alamo Plaza
4. Provide general oversight of the development and implementation of the master plan upon its completion

Upon its establishment and the appointment of its members, the Committee will initiate the update to the Report and the creation of the vision and guiding principles for the redevelopment of Alamo Plaza.

*Taken from:

2014-03-06-0127

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A PROCESS, STRATEGY AND FUTURE STEPS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR ALAMO PLAZA AND SURROUNDING AREA, TO INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 21 MEMBER ALAMO PLAZA ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Dated March 6, 2014

ATTACHMENT 4
Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee Schedule
as of May 9 (subject to change)

Alamo Plaza Committee Schedule

Last updated: 5/8/2014

	Meeting Topic	Meeting Date, Location, and Time
1	<p>Organizational Meeting</p> <p>A) Welcome & introduction of Tri-Chairs B) Introduce staff, consultants, committee members C) City Ordinance and Committee Goals D) Overview of committee binders E) Meeting ground rules, timeline, and schedule F) Briefing on 1994 study and PPS Concept Plan G) Wrap up and next steps</p>	<p>May 9, 2014 Convention Center Room 102 3-5 pm</p> <p>Mimi Quintanilla Alan M. Hantman (Skype)</p>
2	<p>Alamo Plaza Past and Present</p> <p>A) History of Site (San Antonio & regional story, continuum of history, overarching story) - Dr. Winders and Dr. De La Teja B) Presentation - General Land Office Preservation Activities and Long Term Goals for the Alamo - Larry Laine C) Presentation - World Heritage Nomination - National Park Service D) American Indians in Texas Presentation - Jesus Reyes Walking Tour of Alamo Plaza led by Gary Foreman, Dr. Winders, and Dr. Frank De La Teja</p>	<p>May 27, 2014 Convention Center Room 101 1-5 pm</p> <p>Mimi Quintanilla Alan M. Hantman</p>
3	<p>Overview of other relevant or important plazas/locations - Alan Hantman</p> <p>A) US Capitol Complex B) Rockefeller Center C) The Presidio, San Francisco D) Gettysburg E) San Jacinto Battleground F) Pearl Harbor G) Puerto Rico</p>	<p>May 28, 2014 Convention Center Room 101 3-5 pm</p> <p>Mimi Quintanilla Alan M. Hantman</p>
4	<p>Review of existing plans for adjacent area:</p> <p>A) Destination SA - Casandra Matej B) Alamo Plaza Project - Gary Foreman Plans of Adjacent Property Owners: A) River Overlay Project - Irby & Suzanne B) Hemisfair Park - Andres Andujar C) Review of existing Alamo Plaza Historic District Guidelines/viewshed/signage/zoning - OHP (Kathy Rodriguez) D) Overview of current operations (operations, raspa vending policy, event/rentals policy, etc.) - CCDO Operations Division - Troy Houtman & Tonya Baum E) Current ordinances and operations for buses and carriages - SAPD</p>	<p>June 10, 2014 Municipal Plaza ? 10:30 am - 1:30 pm</p> <p>Alan M. Hantman (Skype)</p>
5	<p>Update 1994 Master Plan and Vision and Guiding Principles Work Session</p>	<p>June 23, 2014 Cvtn. Cnt. Room 206 8 am - 12 pm Mimi Quintanilla Alan M. Hantman</p>
6	<p>Mid Process update either at Quality of Life or City Manager's Report</p>	<p>June 17 or July 15</p>

Alamo Plaza Committee Schedule

Last updated: 5/8/2014

	Meeting Topic	Meeting Date, Location, and Time
7	Public Meeting for feedback and input on Vision	July 31, 2014 Cvtn. Cntr. Room 103 6-8 pm Mimi Quintanilla
8	Finalize Vision Statements & Create Guiding Principles	August 5, 2014 Cvtn. Cntr. Room 102 3-5 pm Mimi Quintanilla Alan M. Hantman (Skype)
9	Create Guiding Principles	August 26, 2014 Cvtn. Cntr. Room 102 1-5pm Mimi Quintanilla Alan M. Hantman (Skype)
10	Review vision and guiding principles to include draft of scope for RFQ	September 2, 2014 City Hall? 1-5pm Mimi Quintanilla Alan M. Hantman
11	Quality of Life Council Committee Presentation	September 16, 2014 or October 21, 2014 Mimi Quintanilla Alan Hantman (Skype)
12	B Session Presentation - vision, guiding principles, scope for RFQ	October 1, 2014 or November 12, 2014 Mimi Quintanilla Alan M. Hantman
13	City Council Presentation - Requesting an endorsement of vision and guiding principles, authorization to proceed with RFQ process	October 9, 2014 or November 20, 2014 Alan M. Hantman

ATTACHMENT 5
1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Report
and Recommendations

ALAMO PLAZA
STUDY COMMITTEE

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
TO CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 20, 1994

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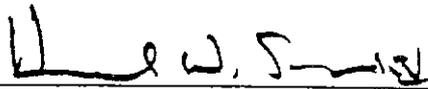
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

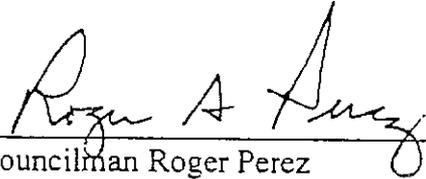
As co-chairmen of the Alamo Plaza Study Committee, we would like to thank all those involved in the development of the Committee's Report and Recommendations to City Council.

All of the Committee members have freely given much of their time to develop this Report and Recommendations to City Council regarding the long term future of Alamo Plaza. Special thanks are due to the sub-committee chairmen: Gilberto Hinojosa, Balthasar Janacek, Richard Santos, Everett Fly, Ben Brewer, Mac McMillin, and Bob Dunlop. We would also like to express appreciation to the city staff team who contributed to the committee's efforts, in particular Rebecca Waldman, Frank Perry, Ann McGlone, and Mark Reddie.

Special thanks are also due to all of the public speakers that came from around the country to give valuable insight to the Committee, with a special recognition for Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Finally, we would also like to acknowledge all of the many public citizens that gave their time, talents, and knowledge to this process, especially Irby Hightower, who guided the Committee through the consensus process.



Councilman Howard Peak
District 9



Councilman Roger Perez
District 1

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-Chairs: Councilman Howard Peak and Councilman Roger Perez

Mr. Gary "Gabe" Gabehart
Inter-Tribal Council of American Indians

Mr. Everett Fly
Landscape Architect/Architect

Ms. Madge Houston Roberts (DRT)
Daughters of the Republic of Texas
(Designee)

Mr. Mac McMillin
Alamo Plaza Association

Ms. Virginia Nicholas
Daughters of the Republic of Texas
(Designee)

Rev. Balthasar Janecek
for: Father Elizondo
San Fernando Cathedral

Mr. Jose Medellin
Fiesta Commission

Mr. Darell Flint
African Americans for the
Alamo Defenders

Mr. Henry Guerra
Historian

Mr. Jack Judson
Historic Design and Review Comm.

Mr. Richard Santos
Bexar County Historical Commission

Mr. Ramiro Cavazos
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Edward Steves
Greater Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Ben Brewer
DownTown Owners Association

Ms. Marianna Jones
San Antonio Conservation Society

Mr. Robert Dunlop
Centro 21 Task Force

Mr. Andrew Perez
Architect (AIA)

Ms. P.J. Schnieder
Property Owner

Dr. Gilberto Hinojosa
Incarnate Word College - Humanities Dept.

Mr. Frank Ruttenberg
Property Owner

Mr. David Richelieu
San Antonio Express News

Mr. Robert Benavides
Granaderos de Galvez

STAFF SUPPORT

Rebecca Waldman
City Manager's Office

Ann Benson McGlone
Historic Preservation Officer

Mark Reddie
Planning Department

Sharon Knippa
Convention and Visitors Bureau

Wayne Cox
UTSA Center for Archaeological Research

Ann Fox
UTSA Center for Archaeological Research

Chief Richard Bonn
Parks and Recreation Department
Park Rangers and Security Division

Ron Darner
Parks and Recreation Department

Frank Perry
Parks and Recreation Department

Steve Arronge
City Attorney's Office

David Abbey
Public Works Dept. Traffic Division

Trey Jacobson
Economic Development Department

Dr. Robert Hard
UTSA Center for Archaeological Res.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMITTEE TASKS

On March 3, 1994, City Council passed Ordinance # 79745, establishing the Alamo Plaza Study Committee. The Committee was established for the following purposes:

- a) Determine the best way to design the closing of Alamo Plaza East on a permanent basis:
- b) Research available data to establish historically factual information concerning Alamo Plaza:
- c) Review and evaluate different options to better define and represent the battle and other periods of history of the plaza including past and present studies:
- d) Prepare recommendations for City Council regarding the best long term plans for the Plaza including the appropriate historical interpretation of Alamo Plaza and recognition and respect for area burials, signage, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, visitor loading and unloading, access for the disabled, and other pertinent issues:
- d) Submit the committee's written report of its findings and recommendations to City Council by October 1, 1994.

PROCESS

In order to effectively manage the productivity of the committee's work, a 4 step process was developed (see Appendix E, pg 49) to guide the overall work schedule for the committee. The process includes: 1) Accumulate Research; 2) Establish a Philosophy; 3) Develop Interpretive Themes and Goals; and 4) Develop a Work Plan. The following information summarizes the committee's work on each of these 4 steps.

ACCUMULATE RESEARCH

During the research phase of the Committee's work, the City of San Antonio hired the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio to prepare a report on the "Historical Overview of Alamo Plaza and Camposanto." This report included sections on: The History and Development of Alamo Plaza; Burials at the Alamo; The Archaeological Investigations; Utility Construction on the Plaza; Potential Techniques for Locating Burials; and Conclusions and Recommendations.

The Alamo Plaza Study Committee, through the use of the UTSA report as well as the numerous meeting focused on historical research, generated their own research document which is attached as Appendix C (pg. 36). This research document is a time line of events at Alamo Plaza which includes: the Mission Period (1720-1794); the Spanish Military Period (1801-1821); the Mexican Military Period (1821-1836); the Republic of Texas Period (1836-1845); the American Military Period (1845-1880); the Beginning of Urbanization (1880-1900); the Early 20th Century (1900-1936); the Middle 20th Century (1936-1960); and the Late 20th Century (1960-1994).

PHILOSOPHY

A Philosophy is a broad statement(s) of overall principles or concepts which connect smaller ideas together. The Committee had developed 3 major philosophical statements.

1. *Confluence of Cultures: the story of the people and their cultures. (Remember the People)*
2. *Alamo Plaza as witness to the history of Texas and the City of San Antonio: the story of the events of the plaza. (Remember the Stories)*
3. *Alamo Plaza symbolizes man's quest for self-determination. (Remember the Sacrifice)*

INTERPRETIVE THEMES AND GOALS

The Committee has come to consensus on five major Themes for Alamo Plaza. A Theme is a conceptual idea which establishes a framework for the consistent application of individual Goals. Within each Theme, a series of Goals will follow which identify what the Committee hopes to accomplish in their overall program for the Plaza.

THEME A: The evolution of settlements and cultures at Alamo Plaza.

GOALS:

1. To tell the story of the environment and the Native Americans.
2. To tell the story of the Spanish Settlement, including the three types of towns; the Mission-Led Indian Town, the Soldier/Settler Town, and the Civilian Town.
3. To tell the story of the Mexican/Anglo American Settlement and the coming of the Revolution.

THEME B: Tell the Story of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo.

GOALS:

1. Tell all sides of the military story.
2. Tell the politics of the Texas Revolution.
3. Tell the local population reaction and participation in the battle.
4. The geography of the Battlefield.
5. Tell the story of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo.
6. The Battle of the Alamo as a symbol.

THEME C: Alamo Plaza represents a continuum of urban development and commerce in San Antonio.

GOALS:

1. Describe/Illustrate what the Plaza looked like during all periods of history.
2. Describe/Illustrate how the uses changed over time, for all periods of history.

THEME D. Alamo Plaza: The number 1 destination point for tourism in Texas.

GOALS:

1. Provide needed information and services.
2. Alamo Plaza should be an orientation point from which visitors can find other destination points.
3. Changes in the Plaza should be sensitive to the tourism industry.

THEME E: This Hallowed Ground: Alamo Plaza.

GOALS:

1. Alamo Plaza should be regarded with reverence for all who died there.
2. Alamo Plaza should better represent a respectful entry point to the Alamo Church.
3. Alamo Plaza should be a place of remembrance.
4. Illustrate and describe the sacrifice for self-determination.
5. Recognize and remember all the cultures that have contributed.

WORK PLAN

The Work Plan addresses much more specifically what to do on the plaza based on the goals for each major Theme. There are six general topic which will be discussed in the Work Plan section of this report.

1. Visitor Center / Interpretive History Center / City Museum.

It is important to provide a Visitor Center, an Interpretive History Center, and a City Museum. These three centers can be housed in separate facilities or in one large facility. The Interpretive History Center and the City Museum should be located close to Alamo Plaza, while the Visitor Center may have smaller sub-stations at strategic locations around the plaza, the downtown area, and the city. All of these centers should serve to disseminate useful information about all aspects of the plaza, incorporating as many of the Themes and Goals outlined in this report as possible.

2. Living History Exhibits.

Living history exhibits (such a battle re-enactments) can be appropriate to Alamo Plaza if they are limited to specific days of the year (preferably on the date a particular event occurred) rather than on a regular basis. Any re-enactment must also be approved by the Historic and Design Review Commission for appropriateness. Additionally, re-enactments must require strict guidelines to be determined and enforced by the Historic and Design Review Commission, the City/State Advisory Board and the Professional Management Team.

3. Street Closings.

- A) Alamo Plaza East should be permanently closed to vehicular traffic. Emergency vehicle access must still be provided.
- B) Alamo Plaza West from north of Crockett to south of Peacock Alley should be permanently closed to vehicular traffic, with the exception of limited access for service vehicles during certain times of the day (to be determined by the Management Team). Emergency vehicle access must also be provided.
- C) Alamo Plaza West should provide access for special parades if a consideration is given to behavioral modifications as the parade(s) passes through the Alamo compound.
- D) Houston Street from the east corner of Broadway to the west corner of Avenue E should be permanently closed to vehicular traffic, with the exception of limited access for service vehicles during certain times of the day (to be determined by the Management Team). Emergency vehicle access must be provided.

As streets are closed, existing paving should be changed to a more appropriate material while still complying with emergency vehicle access requirements. The Management Team should periodically re-evaluate street-closing issues as physical changes occur on or around the Plaza.

4. Management Plan.

Long-Term: A City/State Advisory Board should be created comprised of representatives from the City of San Antonio, the State of Texas, the Texas Historical Commission, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and others. This advisory board will have jurisdiction over the entire area currently defined as the Alamo Plaza National Register Historic District as one single unit, and will deal with long-term management issues in an advisory capacity to the City and the State.

Day-to-day: A professional operational management team should be formed to take care of day-to-day operations. This team should have people on-site 24 hours a day for supervision and enforcement of policies.

5. Alternate Ways of Disseminating Information.

A series of pamphlets, maps, markers, way stations, etc. should be provided which disseminate a broad range of information and could satisfy both the 5 minute visitor as well as the historian or scholar who visits the plaza.

6. What Should Be Defined Spatially?

- A) The entire battlefield should be marked.
- B) The compound should be clearly delineated.
- C) No buildings should be removed.

- D) Rebuild or interpret certain structural features of the compound as appropriate to convey a sense of history and historical aspects without interrupting the traffic patterns or major activities of the plaza. This design should explore the existing spatial qualities of the plaza and surrounding buildings to reinforce and enhance traces of the original compound area.
- E) The City of San Antonio should sponsor an International Design Competition to develop a design plan for Alamo Plaza using this report as the overall design program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Adopt the Alamo Plaza Study Committee's "Report and Recommendation."
- 2) Sponsor an International Design Competition to develop a design plan for Alamo Plaza based on the Report and Recommendations of the Alamo Plaza Study Committee.
- 3) Begin negotiations to establish a City/State Advisory Board which would include officials from the City of San Antonio, the State of Texas, the Texas Historical Commission, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Historians, and others. This Advisory Board would have jurisdiction over the entire area currently defined as the Alamo Plaza National Register District as one single unit, and will deal with long-term management issues in an advisory capacity to the City and the State.
- 4) Acquire long-term lease space on the first floor, or acquisition of, the buildings on Alamo Plaza West in front of the Alamo as they become available (buildings to include the Crockett Block, the Palace, Woolworth's, Gibbs, and the Post Office).
- 5) Apply for a Texas Committee for the Humanities Grant to fund exhibits.

APPENDIX

Appendix items are as follows:

- A. Alamo Plaza Maps
- B. Alamo Plaza Study Committee Meeting Schedule
- C. Committee Research Document
- D. Sub-Committee Topics and Members
- E. The Process Chart

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy is a broad statement(s) of overall principles or concepts which connect smaller ideas together. The committee has developed three major philosophical statements.

1. The Confluence of Cultures: the story of the people and their cultures. (Remember the People)

Background: The history of Alamo Plaza has experienced a diversity of different people and cultures throughout time, and the story of all these people and cultures should be told.

2. Alamo Plaza as witness to the history of Texas and the City of San Antonio: the story of events on the Plaza. (Remember the Stories)

Background: From its earliest records to the present date, the site we now call Alamo Plaza has witnessed numerous historic events and changes in its physical and social development. All major events and periods of development should be told.

3. Alamo Plaza symbolizes man's quest for self-determination. (Remember the Sacrifice)

Background: During its history, many people made contributions to and sacrifices for self-determination at Alamo Plaza. We must tell all the stories of contribution, sacrifice, and heroism which are so much a part of the plaza.

These three philosophical statements will serve as the overall framework for the rest of the committee's report. All of the themes and goals will be reflective of these statements.

THEMES AND GOALS

The Alamo Plaza Study Committee has come to consensus on five major Themes for the plaza. A theme is a conceptual idea which establishes a framework for the consistent application of individual goals. Each Theme was developed by the entire Committee based on the Philosophy and all the research material that had been compiled.

Within each theme, a series of goals will follow which identify what the committee hopes to accomplish in their overall program for the plaza. Since there were five different Themes to consider, the full committee broke down into five sub-committees, each one focusing on a different Theme. These sub-committees consisted of members of the full committee as well as designated members of the general public who had an interest in contributing to this process. This was the time for everybody to participate. The results are a series of goals which are consistent with each overlying Theme for the Plaza. The five Themes and corresponding Goals are listed below.

THEME A: The evolution of settlements and cultures at Alamo Plaza.

Goal 1. Tell the story of the environment and the Native Americans.

- a) The present state of Texas has within its boundaries various continental geographic systems ranging from mountains and deserts in the west to lush vegetation in the east. The variety of regions within the state attracted Native peoples who made their living in different kinds of societies. San Antonio is located just below an escarpment that cuts across the state and joins a semi-arid region to the southwest and a fertile plain to the east. Because of this central location, San Antonio was the meeting place for different groups of Native Americans.
- b) Indians.
 - there were Nomads searching for food.
 - there were small tribes.
 - they were non-builders of dwellings.
 - they were gatherers of food, not farmers.
 - they made pottery and baskets.
 - they had the San Antonio River and other creeks and springs which gave them water to survive.
 - they met with other Indian Tribes at San Pedro Spring to trade and had their "Mitotes," dancing and singing.
 - Indian remains have been found that prove they were in this area over 2,000 years ago.
 - the region was called "Yanaguana."
 - they were attacked often by the Apache Indians.

- they depended on wild game to survive and gathered nuts and berries and other fruits to eat.
- they asked for protection from the Franciscan Fathers and asked that missions be built for protection.
- they were willing to live in the missions and be Christianized and given Spanish names.

Goal 2. Tell the story of the Spanish Settlement, including the three types of towns: Mission-Led Indian Town, the Soldier/Settler Town, and the Civilian Town.

- a) Settled to protect New Spain against French encroachment from Louisiana, Spanish Texas would always serve as a defensive frontier or the edge of the empire. Once the Crown-sponsored establishments were founded, however, settlers began to pursue their own goals and objectives rather than those of the empire.

Spain established **missionary-led Indian towns** (called “missions”) as a means of expanding the empire. To survive and expand, town dwellers created farms and ranches on this frontier. In time, despite the close alliance between Church and State, the missionaries primarily pursued the goals of conversion of the Native Americans.

Even residents of the **soldier-settler towns** (called “presidios,” or military garrisons) often relied more on their local economic base, also farming and grazing, than on their military pay.

The settlers in the **civilian town** of San Fernando de Bejar, whose immigration to Texas had been sponsored by Spain, relied heavily at first on the rights conferred to them by the Crown. But in time they too came to see their search for security and economic improvements as more vital than imperial objectives.

- b) Spanish / Mexicans.

- they brought new religion.
- brought a technique to farming and raising cattle and horses.
- a new Spanish way to do trade.
- built acequias to water farms.
- established civil government.
- built missions, churches, and schools.
- made carts and wagons to haul products.
- brought a new language.
- new diseases, small pox and others.
- built a hospital and brought new medicine.
- traded with Spanish money.
- built new roads.
- established new towns and cities.
- brought and made new laws to govern the area.

- established new businesses and stores.
- brought protection for the missions with the establishment of the Presidios.
- established law and order in the region.
- cleared large areas of brush and trees to establish new farming lands.
- had new animals, cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, chickens that were domesticated.
- built homes of sticks and stones.
- used the San Antonio River for drinking water, washing clothes, and watering their animals and farm land.
- established Spanish archives to file their deed records and wills.
- brought new music and musical instruments, including the guitar and violin.
- brought the oxen to work the farms and other tasks.
- brought items made of iron and brass.
- brought guns and muskets to hunt and protect themselves from Indians.

Goal 3. Tell the story of the Mexican/Anglo American Settlement and the coming of the Revolution.

- a) The United States and Manifest Destiny.
 - Monroe Doctrine.
 - Andrew Jackson and the west.
 - support of filibustering.
 - southern designs for Texas, the expansion of slavery.
 - problems with annexation in 1836.
 - President James A. Polk designs for California.

- b) The Westward Movement of Anglo Americans
 - population growth.
 - natural increase
 - immigration.
 - farmers growing crops.
 - links to a very active national and international market.
 - governmental support.
 - Louisiana purchase.
 - Northwest Ordinance.
 - use of U.S. to remove Native Americans.

- c) From Spanish to Mexican and Anglo American Texas.
 - San Antonio society in transformation.
 - Mexico's immigration policy.

- d) San Antonio and the Mexican War of Independence.
 - de las Casas revolt

- e) San Antonio and the Texas Revolution.
 - the Westward Movement (economic links to the U.S.).
 - confidence of U.S. support.
 - money, arms, volunteers.
 - rise of Centralist power (cutting ties with U.S.).
 - a civil war becomes a revolution (from autonomy and self-determination to independence).

- f) Anglo-Americans.
 - brought new language.
 - new ideas on how to farm.
 - new religion.
 - banking industry.
 - new politics.
 - new money.
 - new laws, English.
 - new streets.
 - new ways of transportation.
 - new businesses.
 - a better water system inside the home.
 - new record keeping, court records.
 - established new factories, industry.
 - created new items to eat: sodas, baked goods.
 - established city parks and recreation.
 - new schools were built.
 - the River was better protected from pollution.
 - a new voting system was created.
 - tore down old buildings and built new ones.
 - made streets wider and installed paved sidewalks.

THEME B: Tell the story of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo.

Goal 1. Tell all sides of the Military Story.

1. The Opposing Forces.
 - a. The Volunteer Army of Texas.
 - b. The Mexican Army of Operations in Texas.

The visiting public of all ages should gain an understanding of the uniforms, equipment, food, accouterments, horse furniture and tack, music, musical instruments, entertainment, medicine and medical supplies, and camp followers. As much of the preceding as possible be depicted for the respective:

- (I) Artillery
- (II) Cavalry

(III) Infantry

(IV) Militia

2. The role of the women and children as eyewitnesses, combatants and non-combatants should be properly depicted.
3. The role of the African Texans as eyewitnesses, combatants and non-combatants should be properly depicted.
4. Alamo defenders, survivors and their roles as combatants and/or couriers should be properly depicted and explained.

Goal 2. Tell the Politics of the Texas Revolution.

The visiting public of all ages should gain an understanding of the political forces at work during the Texas Revolution from September 1835 to June 1836. The known six political factions must be stressed and their leading spokesman identified (through their own writings) to give visitors a sense of the political and emotional turmoil which split families and friendships during the Texas Revolution. The political factions are:

- 1) Federalists- supported the Mexican Constitution of 1824, desired Mexican Statehood for Texas separate from its union with Coahuila, sought to overthrow the centralist dictatorship of President Antonio Lopez Santa Anna, and opposed annexation to the United States.
- 2) Centralist- supported the dictatorship of President Antonio Lopez Santa Anna and opposed further immigration from the United States.
- 3) Republican / Independence- sought an independent Republic of Texas separate and apart from both Mexico and the United States.
- 4) Annexationist- sought an immediate annexation of Texas to the United States through purchase or War as part and parcel of Manifest Destiny and the extension of slavery as an economic base.
- 5) Lone Star Conspiracy- composed primarily of former followers of U.S. Vice President Aaron Burr (Burr Conspiracy), U.S. General James Wilkinson (Spanish Conspiracy), or the "All Mexico Club", this group composed primarily of U.S., Texas, and Northeast Mexico frontiersman favored the creation of the third North American Republic between Mexico and the United States.
- 6) Neutralist- feeling lost in the political turmoil of the Revolution, a great number of Anglo American colonists and Tejanos quit the Federalist Volunteer Army of Texas after the removal of Stephen Fuller Austin, or remained neutral throughout the ordeal.

Goal 3. Tell the local population reaction and participation in the battle.

The visiting public of all ages should gain an understanding of the participation and reaction of the local population of Bexar and surrounding area to the Texas Revolution and the Battle of the Alamo. Apart from the political factions dealt with above (item 2), the following should be properly depicted:

- a) economic impact
- b) social impact
- c) cultural impact
- d) family impact

Goal 4. The Geography of the Battlefield.

Visitors of all ages should gain an understanding of the geography of the Alamo Compound, Villa de Bexar, and the 1836 Texas through animated, state of the art maps, graphics, and audio/visual presentations. Recommend including:

- a) Bexar in 1836 Texas
- b) The Texian Army in February and March 1836 as it relates to possible reinforcements, supplies and communications.
- c) The Alamo Compound in relation to its geography (sitting on a rise above the Villa de Bexar, acequias, wells, cemetery, fields, housing, etc.)
- d) The physical structure and layout of the Alamo Compound.

Goal 5. Tell the story of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo.

1. Background to the Battle; September 1835 to February 22, 1836.
 - a) Pueblo San Antonio de Valero is transformed from an agrarian community to a military garrison as the area residents are literally pushed out from around the Alamo Compound and surrounding area.
 - b) The Villa de Bexar and Pueblo de Valero at the outbreak of the Texas Revolution.
 - c) Early battles in and around Bexar County at Mission Concepcion, Grass Fight on the Alazan and Siege of Bexar from October to December of 1835.
2. Alamo Compound transformed from abandoned Mission, community plaza and cemetery to a fortified military site.
 - a) Mexican Army fortification to Alamo Compound and immediate area before and during Siege of Bexar.
 - b) Continuation of military improvements under Col. James Neill (December 1835 through February 1836).
3. The 1836 Alamo Battlefield.
 - a) Defenders' artillery emplacements within the Alamo Compound.
 - b) Defenders' primary and secondary defensive positions.

- c) Mexican Artillery emplacements around the Alamo Compound.
- d) Mexican Infantry staging areas.
- e) Mexican Cavalry positions.
- f) Mexican Reserves.
- g) Mexican battle logistics and "Order of the Day".
- h) Mexican assault routes by commands.
- i) known or reported sites where certain individuals died.
- j) the surviving Alamo Garrison combatants.
- k) the surviving Alamo Garrison non-combatants.
- l) Mexican impressions of the assault by participants.
- m) recollections of local eyewitnesses.

4. The Battle in Retrospect

- a) Body count of Alamo Defenders versus various lists.
- b) Mexican casualties (550 out of 1,440)
- c) Mexican Army of Operations in Texas changes tactics and objectives after the fall of the Alamo.
- d) Fall of the Alamo becomes a battle cry.

Goal 6. The Battle of the Alamo As A Symbol.

- a) The emotional impact of the fall of the Alamo as reflected through contemporary personal correspondence, journalistic accounts, and military and government reports.
- b) The military impact of the fall of the Alamo as it caused many volunteers to enlist.
- c) The political impact (19th and 20th century) of the fall of the Alamo through its contemporary, historical and political interpretations as it set the stage for the U.S. - Mexican War and acquisition of the U.S. Southwest.
- d) The Alamo compound as an early tourist attraction as derived from diaries, memoirs, and published sources.
- e) The creation and development of the Alamo Myths from the contemporary 19th century to the present.

THEME C: Alamo Plaza represents a continuum of urban development and commerce in San Antonio.

Goal 1. Describe/Illustrate what the Plaza looked like at all periods of history.

- a) Yanaguana period.
 - no known urban development or commerce.

- b) Mission period (1720-1794).
 - 1793 - with secularization of the mission, shops opened in the small structures on the west side of the plaza and south with the expansion of the civil settlement which evolved.
- c) Spanish Military period (1801-1821).
- d) Mexican Military period (1821-1836).
- e) Republic of Texas period (1836-1845).
- f) American Military period (1845-1880).
- g) Beginning of Urbanization (1880-1900).

Goal 2. Describe/Illustrate how the uses changed over time, for all periods of history.

- a) Mission Period (1720-1794).
 - 1793 - with secularization of the mission, shops opened in the small structures on the west side of the plaza and south with the expansion of the civil settlement which evolved.
- b) Spanish Military Period (1801-1821).
- c) Mexican Military Period (1821-1836).
- d) Republic of Texas Period (1836-1845).
- e) American Military Period (1845-1880).
 - 1847: leased by U.S. Army of grounds and structure from the Church.
 - 1849: city survey, Giraud, drew plat of Alamo Plaza.
 - 1849: U.S. Army Quarter Master in Washington D.C. denied a demolition request of structures to enable new construction, even though the Church had given its approval.
 - 1849: Convento structure was restored for use by the military.
 - 1849: the first photo was taken of Alamo Plaza and the Alamo - a Daguerreotype.
 - 1850: the U.S. Army completed the roof and parapet on the front of the Church structure as it is known today.
 - 1850: Texas Supreme Court ruled that the Alamo belonged to the Church, not the City of San Antonio.
 - 1859: Menger Hotel constructed.
 - 1861: map in national archives.

- 1860's: photograph of Alamo Plaza street scene depicts a meat market which was erected in 1859, two camels, and a Confederate Flag displayed on a flag pole.
- Crockett Street was the Camino Real to Nacogdoches; southern boundary of Alamo compound.
- 1868: St. Joseph's Church, Turnverine Building, Crockett Hotel, and Maverick Homestead constructed.
- 1874: first Joskes built on west side of Alamo Street.

f) Beginning of Urbanization (1880-1900).

- 1882: the first electric light was turned on in May in front of the Post Office.
- 1886: Maverick Bank Building constructed.
- 1886: 8 saloons and an Opera House listed on Alamo Plaza.
- 1889: Chile Queens removed from Alamo Plaza.

g) Other General Recommendations.

- better signage needed.
- religious solicitors and street preachers are an affront to visitors; a means of confining them to specific locations should be explored.
- provide a shuttle from east parking site to the Alamo.

THEME D. Alamo Plaza: The number 1 destination point for tourism in Texas.

Goal 1. Provide needed information and services.

a) Information concerning:

- the 1836 Battle of the Alamo.
- other history; other sites.
- cultural and political evolution.
- the Hispanic Mexican period.
- services (restrooms).
- a subsequent committee should be charged with details of what information is to be provided.

b) Information targets:

- 5 minute visitor.
- more serious visitor.
- groups.
- organized tours.
- conventioners.
- evening strollers.
- children.

c) How information will be disseminated:

- provide an interpretive center, possibly in the Post Office lobby.
- obtain "curriculum" designation from schools.

- design and build a walk through scale model presentation depicting the Alamo Compound in relation to the city and to Main and Military Plazas somewhere in the compound which after hours visitors can see and receive information.
 - extend presentation and activity hours.
 - coordinate with commercial ventures - shops will have more customers to stay open for if the Visitor Information Center is successful at night.
 - program activities such as performing musicians in Valero Plaza, and live historical interpretations in Alamo Plaza.
 - provide kiosks and orientation signage.
 - provide improved lighting.
 - train and license tour guides.
 - provide a high-level of maintenance to clean.
 - provide a prominent point of identification of the site.
 - provide a tram system from parking areas to designated entry points of the site.
 - provide orientation signs at parking locations.
 - provide identifications at locations of public restrooms.
 - provide comfortable park benches.
 - provide drinking water fountains.
 - eliminate raspa vendors and other vendors.
 - eliminate yelling preachers and solicitors.
 - eliminate pedestrian hazards.
 - provide adequate enforcement of existing codes.
 - provide adequate management of what we have and will have.
 - provide unique shopping.
- d) Designated entity take charge of the whole mission compound.
- e) Develop a trash compacting system requiring less trash pick-up.
- f) Develop a means of limiting religious groups soliciting of funds to designated kiosks off the Plaza; use the same methods which have succeeded on the River Walk and on the Alamo Grounds. Find out how other cities do this, at airports.. example: "free speech zones".
- g) Assign full-time Ranger and Police to the Plaza with orientation toward eliminating affronts to visitors and to enforce codes effectively.
- h) Multi-lingual directional, interpretive, and service signs should be provided (English, Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Braille).
- i) Recorded guided tours and brochures should be provided in numerous appropriate languages.
- j) All proposed activities should conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- k) Establish an endowment fund to augment proper levels of maintenance and up-keep of public spaces and visitor facilities.

Goal 2. Alamo Plaza should be an orientation point from which visitors can find other destination points.

- a) Suggested points:
 - the River Walk.
 - other missions.
 - Plaza de Islas.
 - Plaza de Armas (Spanish Governors Palace).
 - other historical sites (Arsenal, Ft. Sam, Espada Dam, etc.).
 - In Texas (Goliad, San Jacinto Battle Ground, Washington of the Brazos).
- b) Other appropriate points:
 - visitor center.
 - provide information on the relationship of other destinations to Alamo Plaza.
 - enlist volunteers to be trained to provide information to Alamo Plaza visitors.
 - TEXDOT and National Park Service should be invited to locate information center on Alamo Plaza.

Goal 3. Changes in the Plaza should be sensitive to the tourism industry.

- a) Provide organized and enforced accommodations for cross-country and local tour bus operations.
- b) Organize and enforce systems of goods deliveries and waste collection to prevent conflicts.
- c) Information should be provided to the community on benefits of the tourism / visitor industry to the community.
- d) Enforcement of laws and codes should be no less on Alamo Plaza than enforcement of laws and codes on the River Walk and on the State property managed by the DRT.

THEME E: This Hallowed Ground: Alamo Plaza.

Goal 1. Alamo Plaza should be regarded with reverence for all who died there.

- a) Mission led Indian Settlement from 1718-1792.
- b) Pueblo San Antonio de Valero 1793-1824.
(Pueblo de San Joseph y Santiago del Alamo).
(2 sets of records being kept, one record kept at San Fernando, one record kept by the military).
- c) Military burials: (records kept at Valero).
 - Spanish.
 - Mexican (may only exist north of north wall).

Goal 2. Alamo Plaza should better represent a respectful entry point to the Alamo Church.

- a) A Campo Santo originally used by the Coahuiltecan Bands at Mission Valero and subsequently used for other burials.
- a) The Campo Santo in front of the existing Alamo Church was dedicated on November 16, 1749.
- b) There may be 3-4 sites because there was that number of churches at the Alamo Plaza site.
- c) There were other Indians besides Coahuiltecas buried at Mission San Antonio de Valero: Coco, Karankwas, Apaches, Comanches, others.

Goal 3. Alamo Plaza should be a place of remembrance.

- a) Solemn ceremony to give the land by the Presidio captain to the Indian Chiefs: Act of Possession.
- b) Valero was a designated sanctuary.
- c) Indians had Aboriginal Title and then Crown Title (Spanish).
- d) Embraced both Catholic and Indian ways of burial. Imperfect Conversions. Canon law said non-Catholics could not be buried in a Campo Santo.
- e) Traditional church location for cemeteries was in front of the church.

Goal 4. Illustrate and describe the sacrifice for self-determination.

- a) Hallowed Ground was hallowed because of the cemeteries, then the "personal sacrifice" by Alamo defenders and all participants, men, woman, and children, made it hallowed twice.

Goal 5. Recognize and remember all the cultures that have contributed.

- a) Native Americans, Spaniards, Canary Islanders, Presidio Soldiers, African Americans (Negro, Mulattos, Zambos), Mexicans, Visitors.
- b) Record of burials.
- c) How do we recognize this hallowed ground?
 - Native Americans have been denied their right to recognize and pay tribute to their ancestors in the Native American tradition.
 - Homage should be similar to the way the 1836 Battle defenders are recognized on March 6.

Objectives of Theme E:

- 1) Area need to be more quiet.
 - reduce noise.
 - decibel level research.
 - quite means traffic, too.
 - better enforcement of regulations.
- 2) Need a de-compression space to begin to develop feelings of reverence.

- zone of reference before entering the compound.
 - go first to Visitor Center, then to compound.
- 3) Visitor should begin to feel they "know" the stories, especially the common stories.
 - 4) People need to understand when they are in the battlefield to understand they are on hallowed ground.
 - 5) Separate commercial areas from hallowed ground areas.
 - vendors south of Crockett.
 - 6) Keep views open to the Church.
 - show reverence by giving it a visual sense of importance.
 - 7) Have a symbolic ceremony every day at noon with a bell for all who need to be remembered.
 - 8) Make Alamo Plaza a remembrance Plaza.
 - a place of healing.
 - 9) Recognize and commemorate the existence of Campo Santo.
 - 106 year history needs to be remembered.
 - 10) Recognize the founder of San Antonio.
 - Friar Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares.

WORK PLAN

After the formulation of each themes' Goals, each sub-committees continued meeting for two more weeks to formulate the Work Plan. The Work Plan addresses much more specifically what to do on the Plaza based on the goals for each major Theme. In order to obtain consistent information, a series of questions was formulated which were answered by each sub-committee. The sub-committees answered the questions based on their particular Theme topic. The answers were then combined into one overall Work Plan which is presented below.

1. Visitor Center / Interpretive Center / City Museum.

a) What function should the center serve?

Visitor Center - Give out information about Alamo Plaza and other city-wide attractions. This could be in the form of brochures, pamphlets, maps, etc. There could also be small kiosks at major entry points to Alamo Plaza.

Interpretive History Center - To tell the history of Alamo Plaza. Buildings around the plaza should be used to house this function.

City Museum - Cater to the more scholarly aspects, including exhibits, displays, artifacts, etc. Buildings around the plaza should also be used to house this function.

Combined, these centers should:

- * serve to help identify other parts of San Antonio's cultural resources.
- * serve to disseminate information to better understand and appreciate the Battle of 1836.
- * accurately tell the history of all who served there.
- * accurately tell the story to help visitors identify and understand that Alamo Plaza is hallowed ground.
- * All new facilities must coordinate with existing facilities, including the DRT museum and the existing visitor center.

b) Are there other functions or groups that should be included?

- * Texas Historical Commission
- * Texas Department of Transportation
- * National Park Service
- * Alamo Area Council of Governments
- * Goliad
- * Texas Parks and Wildlife
- * Descendants of the Indians
- * Descendants of the Battle Defenders
- * Daughters of the Republic of Texas

- * African Americans
- * Spaniards and Spanish Government
- * Mexican Government
- * Civilians

If any of these groups have separate facilities, they should be located outside the compound area.

c) How should the center(s) work for the various groups identified?

- * Provide walk-through exhibits, handouts, brochures, pamphlets, etc.
- * Provide access to the highest level of technology available, including audio/visual tours of the Alamo.
- * Within the first 5 minutes, visitors should understand they are on hallowed ground. There should be a transition area.

2. Living History Exhibits.

a) Are battle re-enactments appropriate to Alamo Plaza?

- * Battle re-enactments may be appropriate if:
 - they are limited to specific days of the year (on or close to the date a particular event occurred).
 - they are approved by the Historic and Design Review Commission for appropriateness.
 - they require strict guidelines to be associated with the Management Team.

b) If yes, how often should they occur?

- * Only on the anniversary date a particular event occurred.

c) Will this function disrupt other plaza functions?

- * Not if they are limited to specific days of the year.

d) Are there other living history exhibits, besides battle re-enactments that are appropriate?

- * Yes, but they must be accurate and done on a case-by-case basis. Examples may include:
 - * founding of the mission.
 - * reading of the declaration of War.
 - * decree of secularization.
 - * raising of the Green Flag (Republic of the North).
 - * arrival of the North Compania del Alamo.
 - * reading of the first declaration of independence against Spain.

This could be done by guided tours with trained people in period uniforms, living history stations, and dramatic vignettes.

e) How can this be done without Alamo Plaza becoming a "theme park"?

- * Restrict re-enactments to an annual event.
- * Emphasize education over entertainment.
- * Maintain an efficient management plan and effective code enforcement.
- * Any re-enactments must be of the highest quality in both accuracy of events and costuming.
- * Consideration must also be given to the location of these event so as not to disrupt any hallowed ground.

3. Street Closures.

A) Should any streets be closed?

- * Alamo Plaza East should be permanently closed to all vehicular traffic. Emergency vehicle access must still be provided.
- * Alamo Plaza West from North of Crockett to South of the alley between Houston and Travis should be permanently closed to vehicular traffic, but should allow limited access for service vehicle during certain non-peak times of day. These times to be established by the Management Team. Emergency vehicles must also have access.
- * Alamo Plaza West will allow access for special parades if a consideration is given to behavioral modifications as the parade(s) passes by the Alamo.
- * Houston Street from the East corner of Broadway to the West corner of Avenue E should be permanently closed to vehicular traffic, but should allow limited access for service and emergency vehicles.
- * The Management Team should periodically re-evaluate street-closing issues as physical changes occur on or around Alamo Plaza.

b) Should any streets be opened?

- * Emergency vehicle access must be provided, even where streets are closed.

c) Should any streets be opened for designated purposes?

- * See question 3a and 3b.

d) How will the impact of street closings be mitigated?

- * City Traffic Engineers to study this issue.

e) If streets are permanently closed, should existing paving material be changes?

- * Yes, existing paving material should be changed (while accommodating access for emergency vehicles) and the entire plaza should achieve uniform and appropriate design for all areas of street closings.
- * Raised curbs should be eliminated where possible.

4. Management Plan.

a) What type of management is needed?

Day-To-Day:

- * Professional operational management team to take care of day-to-day operations.
 - this team should have people on-site at all times for supervision and enforcement.
 - this team should represent the entire community.
 - this team should have strong enforcement powers.

Long-Term:

- * Create a City/State Advisory Board to include officials from the City of San Antonio, the State of Texas, the Texas Historical Commission, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Historians, and others to have jurisdiction and treat the entire area (which was defined by the current National Register Historic District boundary) as one unit in dealing with long-term management issues.
- * Officially name the Plaza to the east of the Alamo "Plaza de Valero."

b) Are there existing organizations that could do this work?

- * Yes, but they are not representative of the entire community.

c) What issues should be addressed by the management plan for the Plaza?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * Custodial. | * Security. |
| * Maintenance. | * Programming. |
| * Educational Director. | * Historical Interpreter. |
| * Curator. | * Marketing Officer. |
| * Community Resources. | * Public Relations Officer. |
| * Traffic Regulations. | * Plaza Operations. |

- * Preservation of Historic Quality.
- * Noise Control.
- * Special Codes for the Plaza.
- * New Policies and Enforcement.
- * Convenience and Comfort.
- * Lighting.
- * Adequate Funding Sources.
- * Raspa Vendors.

d) What issues of access to the Plaza should be addressed by the Management Plan?

- * Vehicular Access.
- * Begin to re-route vehicles from as far as the expressways.
- * Access from the north end of the Plaza should be explored.
- * Discourage traffic off Commerce St. to the Plaza area.
- * Directionality (signage).
- * Historic points of arrival: the Alamo Church might be closed but the compound is still open to the public.
- * South entry and Southwest corner.
- * Recognition and delineation of Campo Santo.
- * Palisades.

5. Alternate Ways for Disseminating Information.

a) What information should be in pamphlet form?

- * Pre-battle history
- * Time-line of events from September 1835 through June 1836.
- * Detailed time-line of events of the 13-day battle.
- * Basic information:
 - history of the plaza.
 - other sources of information, sites, restrooms, etc.
 - information about where you are, where to go, etc.

b) What types of maps should be available?

- * Regional geography.
- * Mission locations.
- * Basic area maps.
- * Time-line maps.
- * Evolution of the Compound prior to the Battle.
- * Walking tour maps of the Compound and the Battlefield.
- * Maps of related Texas Revolution sites (beyond Bexar County).
- * Map showing the location of key events of the Battle.
- * Maps showing the chronology of the built environment.
- * Some of these maps should be state-of-the-art, high-tech maps such as holograms, 3-dimensional, or overlay maps.

c) Should there be markers on the Plaza?

- * Yes, to include information station, plaques, memorials, markers, etc.

d) How can information be given to school curriculums?

- * It should be a function of the Professional Management Team. Possibly through an Educational Director.

e) How should guides be trained?

- * Guides should be highly trained professionals, and should be recognized on the Plaza as authority figures.
- * There should be periodic monitoring of all guides by the Management Team.

6. What Should be Defined Spatially and Why?

a) Should the entire battlefield be marked?

- * Yes, using the best available means.
- * Markers should be used at various key points, and should connect people back to the compound.

b) Should the compound be marked?

- * Yes, the compound should be clearly delineated.

c) What degree of delineation is necessary?

- * Without demolishing any buildings, give the design team direction to rebuild or interpret certain structural features as appropriate to convey a sense of history and historical aspects without interrupting the traffic patterns or major activities of the plaza. The design team should explore the existing spatial qualities of the plaza and surrounding buildings to reinforce and enhance traces of the original compound area.
- * The City of San Antonio should sponsor an International Design Competition to develop a design plan for Alamo Plaza using this report as the overall design program.
- * A large-scale model should be incorporated inside Alamo Plaza which gives a sense of spatial definition to where the original compound was located.
- * All available Alamo cannon's should be returned to Alamo Plaza.
- * Recognize and delineate the Campo Santo.

- * City Council to request that the city begin acquiring long term lease space on the first floor, or acquisition of, buildings on Alamo Plaza West in front of the Alamo as available (buildings to includes the Crockett Block, the Palace, Woolworth's, Gibbs and the Post Office).

d) To what degree should reconstructed areas be differentiated from original construction?

- * Any reconstructed areas must be clearly differentiated from original construction. This can be done by use of:
 - colors.
 - materials.
 - patterns / texture.
 - signage.
 - large-scale models instead of full-size reconstruction.

e) If areas are being reconstructed, where are the limits of reconstruction?

- * No buildings are to be removed.
- * No impact on existing vistas of the Alamo.
- * See question 6-c.

f) If no changes are made, how can the story of the battle be better represented?

- * Models and dioramas.

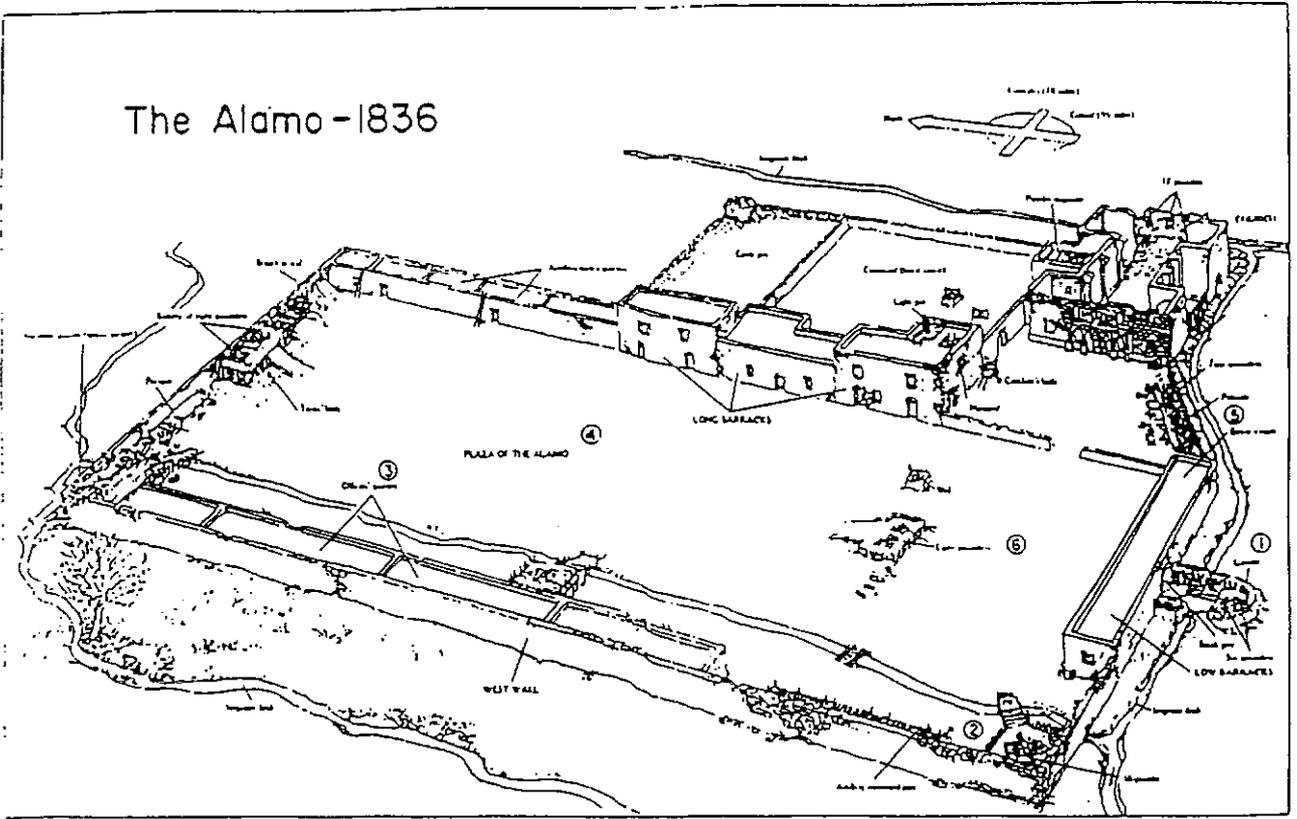
g) What physical restrictions should be provided around Alamo Plaza.

- * No buildings shall be erected east of the Alamo which affect the current view that forms its backdrop.

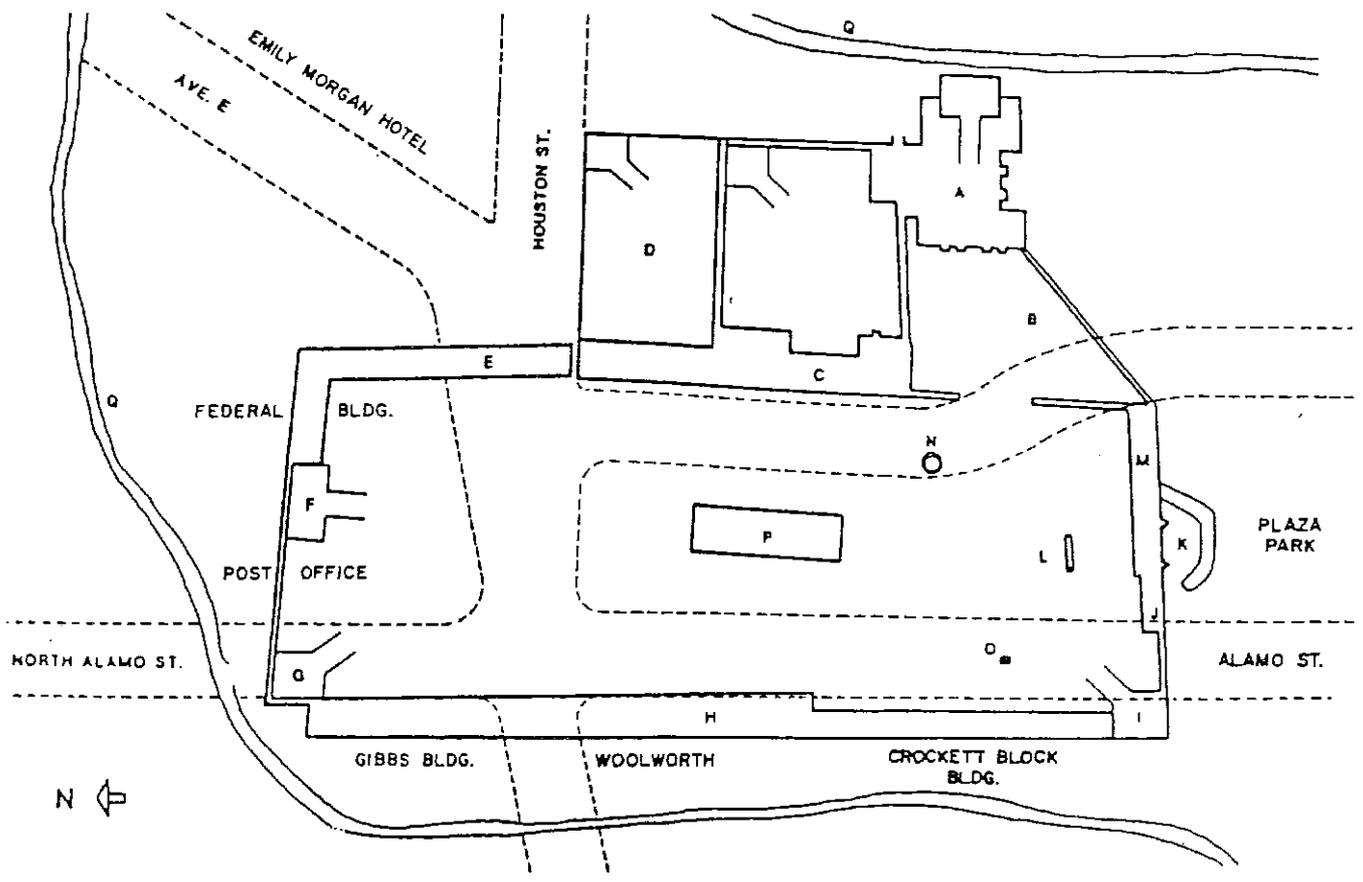
RECOMMENDATIONS

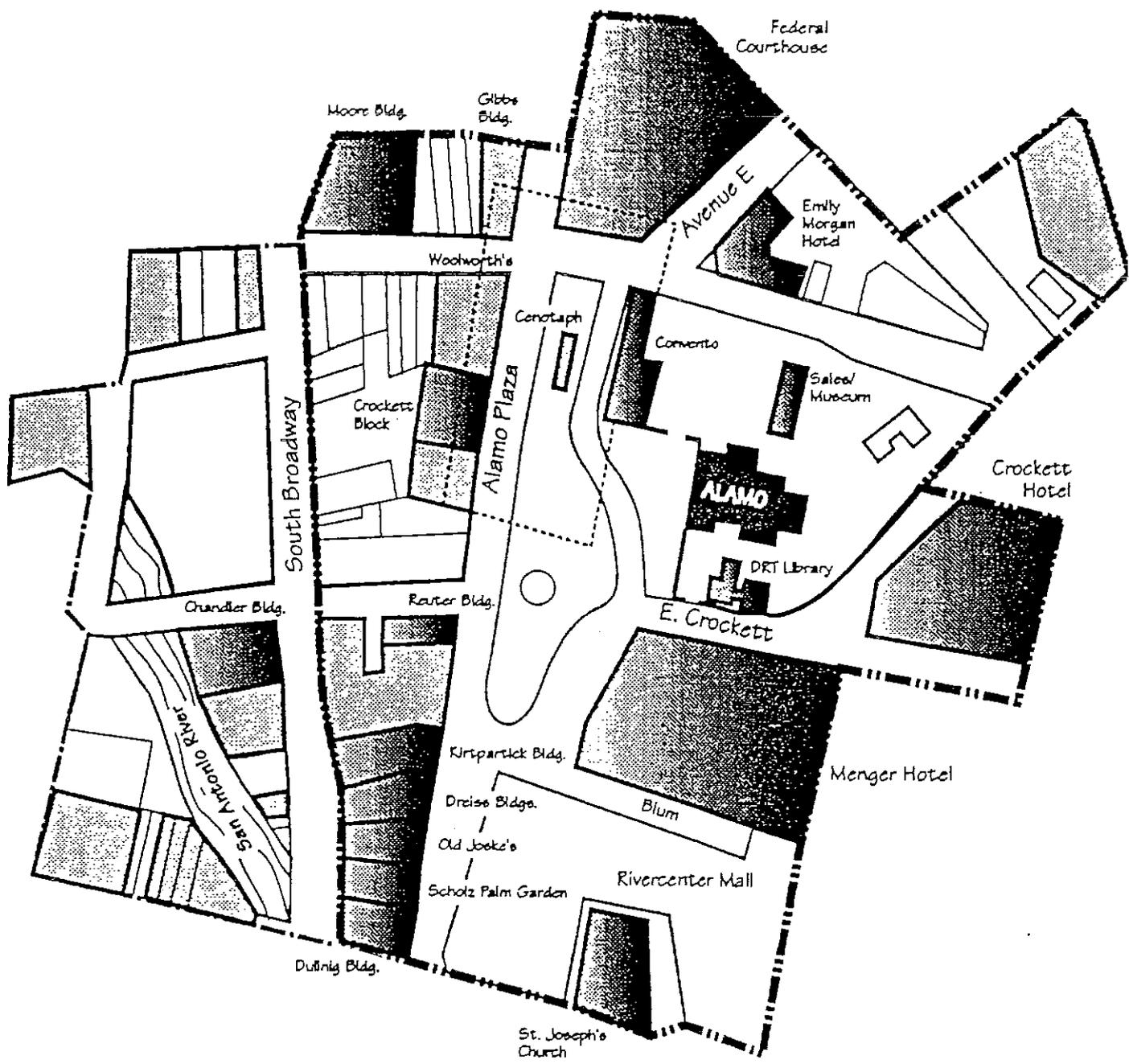
1. Adopt the Alamo Plaza Study Committee's "Report and Recommendation."
2. Sponsor an International Design Competition to develop a design plan for Alamo Plaza based on the Report and Recommendations of the Alamo Plaza Study Committee.
3. Begin negotiations to establish a City/State Advisory Board which would include officials from the City of San Antonio, the State of Texas, the Texas Historical Commission, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Historians, and others. This advisory board would have jurisdiction over the area currently defined as the Alamo Plaza National Register District as one single unit, and will deal with long-term management issues in an advisory capacity to the City and the State.
4. Acquire long-term lease space on the first floor, or acquisition of, the buildings on Alamo Plaza in front of the Alamo as they become available (buildings to include the Crockett Block, the Palace, Woolworth's, Gibbs, and the Post Office).
5. Apply for a Texas Committee for the Humanities Grant to fund exhibits.

The Alamo - 1836



Conceptual Interpretation Rendering of the Alamo in 1836.





-  National Register Historic District Boundary
-  Local Historic District Boundary
-  Buildings that contribute to the historic district
-  Buildings that contribute to the district and are protected by covenants or guidelines

ALAMO PLAZA HISTORIC DISTRICT



ATTACHMENT 6
2012 Project for Public Spaces Placemaking
Report

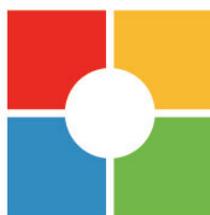
SECOND TO NONE

FINDING ALAMO PLAZA'S PLACE IN THE CITY



Report prepared by:

PPS
PROJECT FOR
PUBLIC
SPACES



419 Lafayette Street
Seventh Floor
New York, NY 10003
212.620.5660
www.pps.org

Senior Vice President Phil Myrick

Project Manager and Designer Alessandra Galletti

July 2012

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introduction

PROJECT HISTORY

The final report is the culmination of the previous two phases of exploratory research, site visits, community meetings, stakeholder interviews, data collection and presentations in which Project for Public Spaces has worked with the residents of San Antonio, city leaders and staff, and a wide variety of stakeholders and partners to develop a Placemaking plan for the Alamo Plaza.

Project for Public Spaces, Inc. (PPS) is a nonprofit, educational and technical assistance organization recognized internationally for its success in helping communities enhance their unique sense of place, promote active, healthy lifestyles, foster contact between diverse populations, and work towards environmental sustainability. Public and private organizations, federal, state and municipal agencies; business improvement districts; the private sector; neighborhood associations, chambers of commerce, charitable foundations and other civic groups have all worked with PPS to transform their downtowns and neighborhoods.

In the process of conducting this study, PPS led interviews with groups and individuals with broad representation, including preservation groups, merchants and hotel managers, downtown advocates, tourism officials, history buffs, and many others with a tie to the Alamo, its past, present and future. PPS led two community Placemaking Workshops using the Place Performance Evaluation "Game." Small breakout groups were assigned to a specific portion of the study area to evaluate using a set of criteria. Ideas for short term and long term improvements were developed by each group. This format allowed participants to observe onsite conditions for themselves and understand the dynamics and needs of specific areas within the site. Within this structured context, highly trained professionals and lay persons could equally contribute their ideas for the future of the plaza and surroundings, while learning about each others' particular concerns and needs.

These meetings and workshops were primarily to learn from local experts - not only people who know the history of the Alamo site, but also residents who, as users of the space on a regular basis, are experts in how the site works on a day-to-day basis as an important place in downtown. Guiding this process was a Steering Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee who were instrumental in identifying key perspectives, stakeholders, and opportunities. We thank all of these participants for their passionate involvement.

Other data collection included three days of time lapse studies of the plaza from different locations and elevations, as well as onsite observations by PPS staff. Historical sources were provided by city staff and members of the Steering Committee.

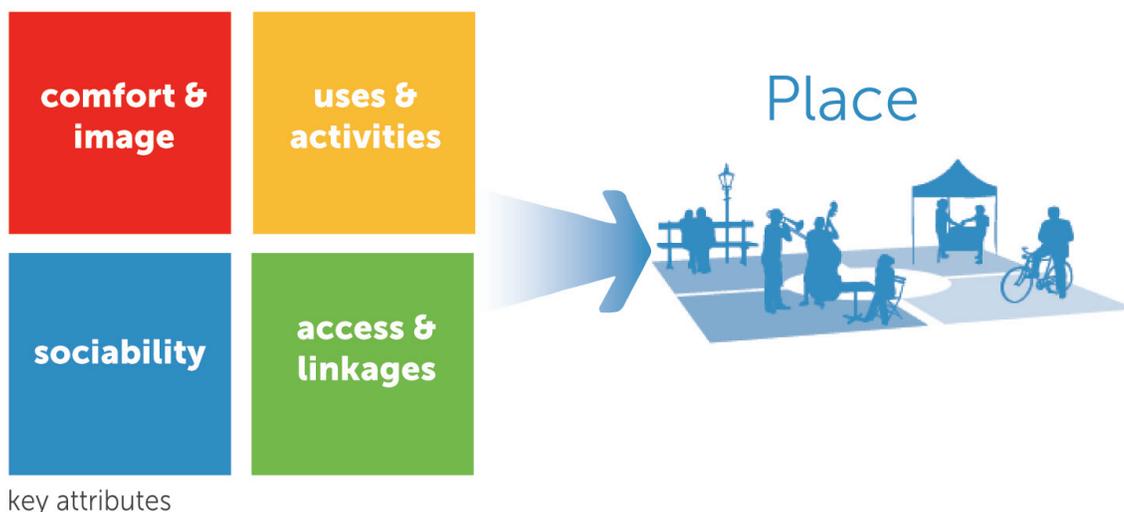
APPROACH AND PURPOSE

The findings and recommendations in the report focus on the visitor experience at Alamo Plaza, from the perspective of usability and creating a successful, human-scaled destination. This layer of planning will be flexible enough to allow for future layers of planning to deal with questions of restoration, interpretation, expansion of the shrine, and the like.

The approach taken seeks to ensure that major concerns of various stakeholders can be addressed in the development of the vision and design, as well as in the management and programming of the site. But, this report is not a master plan for the Alamo, and will not address what the future of the historic site and shrine should be.

- Can The Alamo become a more magnetic attraction for residents, especially?
- Can The Alamo be more usable and successful as a public space?
With the benefits a great civic space can bring to a downtown?
- One layer of planning that can complement other layers (restoration, interpretation, and public works projects)

What Makes A Great Place?



PROCESS

A vision is the act of anticipating what the future holds. Prophetic and powerful, the community's vision is a valuable resource for guiding planning and design processes. To encapsulate the communities vision or visions, PPS utilized an in depth process to gather information and develop recommendations.

Stakeholder Interviews + Meetings

- Collecting local expertise and finding common areas of concern and opportunity

Steering Committee + Technical Advisory Committee

- Working team to consider findings and recommendations and help guide the process in general

Two Placemaking Workshops (January 2012)

- Small breakout groups were assigned to a specific portion of the study area to evaluate using a set of criteria. Ideas for short term and long term improvements were developed by each group and presented to the full forum.

Observations of User Behavior

- Time lapse film study over 3 consecutive days
- Informal on-site observations

Review of Draft Recommendations + Revisions

- Presentation of draft recommendations to City Council, B Session (March 2012)
- Presentation of draft recommendations to the public, followed by a workshop in which the public gave feedback and suggestions

Final Report

summary of findings

ISSUES IDENTIFIED: PUBLIC WORKSHOP



ISSUE: It's well maintained although....

- Paving is in disrepair/uneven
- Need general beautification and landscaping
- Waste baskets
- Some of the lighting

ISSUE: Orientation and Wayfinding

- Confusing – where are the Alamo boundaries?
- No gateway or sense of you are here
- Poor wayfinding signage
- Invisible from afar, no perspective of the site
- Streets do not support any “sense of arrival”
- Curbs and planters are challenging to pedestrian flow
- Transit access

ISSUE: Interpretation

- Insufficient interpretive signage
- Insufficient Education - Need more guides in plaza helping people understand the Alamo
- No intuitive way to “read” the space
- Need reconstruction of some elements to assist understanding
 - low barrack and palisade, plaza

ISSUE: Physical Elements / Reconstruction

- Make the plaza level – there are too many planters and curbs
- Create a sense of arrival to The Alamo – a visible gateway
- Close street for cars (keep access for bikes, Segways, pedi-cabs, horse carriages, streetcar)
- Narrow the lanes, widen side walks
- Add greenery, shade trees and lawn



ISSUE: Comfort

- Need places to stop and linger
- Comfortable and moveable seating, café-style tables and chairs
- Public rest rooms
- More landscaping, green, shade
- Bike parking

ISSUE: Things to Do!

- More food options
 - Casual food
 - Temporary vendors, food and art market
 - Chili Queens
 - Places where locals might go
 - Cafes to sit at a table and enjoy the ambiance, "Places to linger and enjoy"
- More retail
 - More high quality options for locals
 - Greater mix of businesses
 - Merchants should keep longer hours



"more places to eat, area was a bit sterile, liked the view of the Alamo"

ISSUE: Things to Do!

- More activities and programs
- Kids places, activities
 - make the Alamo interactive to kids
 - Historic art/sculpture for hands-on interaction, a family experience
 - A place for kids to stay entertained while parents see the museum

ISSUE: Things to Do!

- Entertainment options for locals
- Ballet folkloric
- Music
- Fiesta
- Luminaria
- Local artist and musicians
- Local chefs



“the space is neutral neither good or bad – sterile, no activity, ambiance”

ISSUES IDENTIFIED: OBSERVATIONS



PPS staff observed user activity to better understand how the Alamo site functions. In addition to interviews and meetings detailed previously, informal observation techniques and time lapse video analysis contributed to our understanding of the site and recommendations.

Primary Activities Observed

Walking through the Plazas
Taking pictures, looking at the church
Reading signs, gathering around plaques
Wandering around looking for what to do
Sitting

Click below for videos (PPS):
Alamo Chapel
Alamo Plaza - Busy



Key Sitting Areas in Use

Seat walls facing the church were well used by school groups
Benches in Plaza Valero, north end, were well used
-Limited views of the main edifice (church)
-Few reasons to stay long – not engaging
-Distracting music from retail on Alamo St.
-Noise from Preacher
"Ruins" near the Paseo del Alamo are popular seating
-Prime vantage point of the church and for people-watching
-Seating walls are not comfortable for long
Benches in Valero, south end, were not observed to be used as much
Gazebo was used rarely – mainly by groups of teens



Conclusions from Time Lapse

People get their impression of "the Alamo" in front of the church
A high proportion of people never stop for more than a minute or two
Highest foot-traffic areas are along Alamo Street and directly in front of the church,
Pedestrians walk along Alamo Street as along any other major street; they do not behave as if they are in a plaza

implications & recommendations

Recommendations in the following section are grouped into four categories:

- Orientation, Spatial Organization, and Interpretation
- Places to Linger
- Activity Zones
- A Walkable District

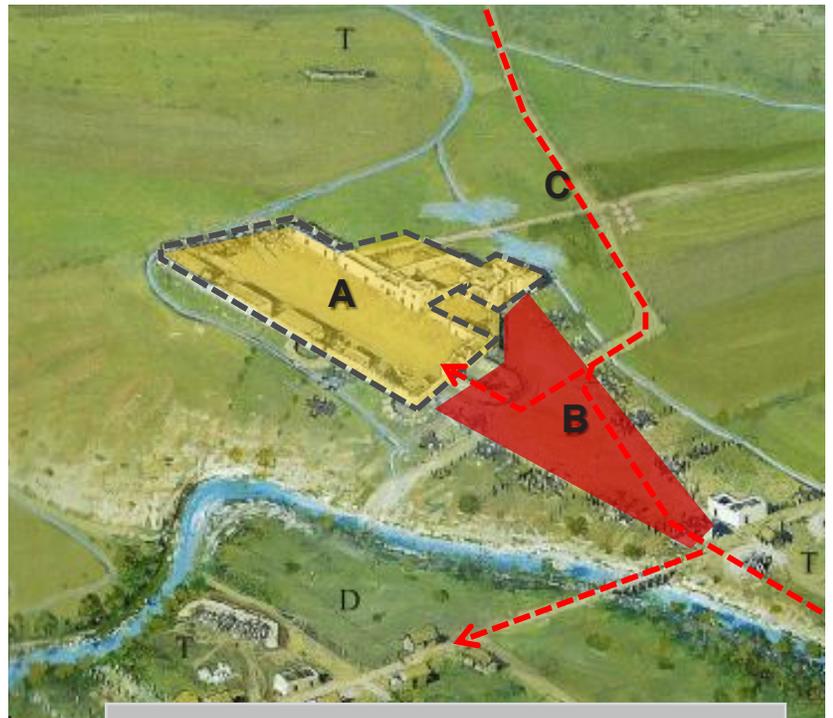


ORIENTATION, SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, AND INTERPRETATION

Where is The Alamo?

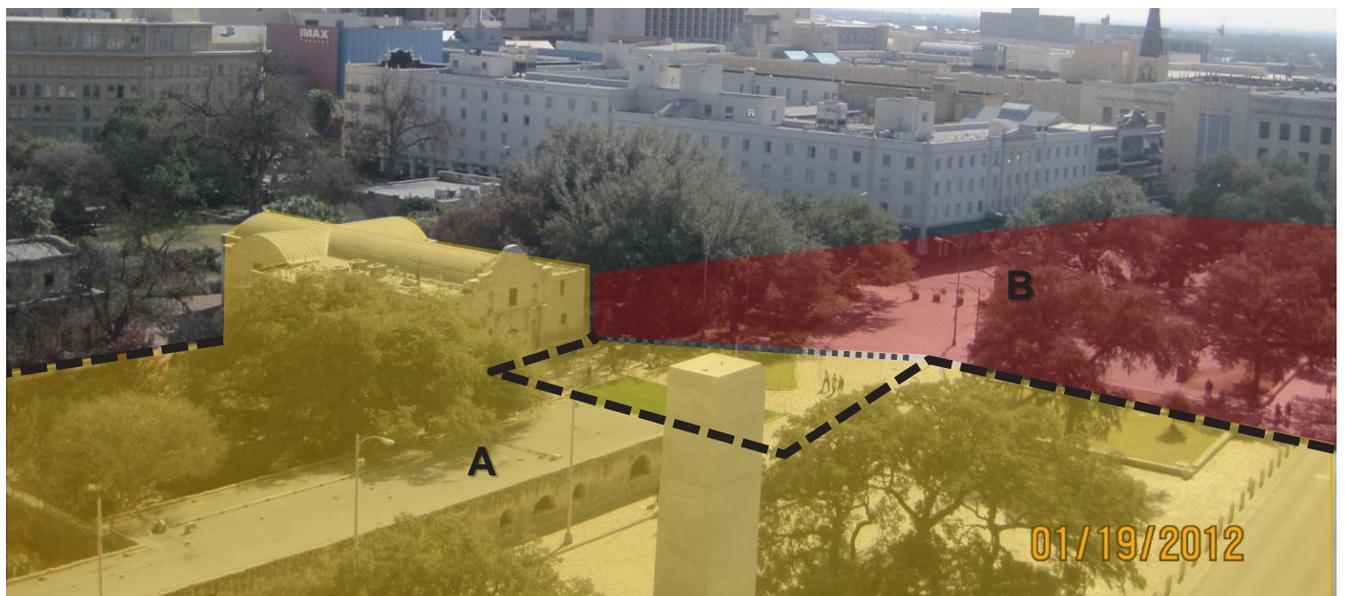
Our study showed very clearly the level of confusion there is when people visit the Alamo. Many basic facts remain cloudy for the public, including the actual boundaries of the Mission San Antonio de Valero, the fact that the plaza in front of the church is the mission grounds, or that the southern part of the plaza was not part of the mission grounds at all. There are subtle elements, such as pavement inlays and planter beds, that are meant to help understand where the original walls were, but without a tour guide to point them out, the public has little chance of finding or interpreting them. Signage only improves the understanding slightly, but often the location of the signs, such as in front of the church, only reinforces the misconception that the church (and grounds behind it) constitute the Alamo site.

Delineating the south wall, where the entrance into the mission was, is critical to helping the visitor understand "where's The Alamo." The area outside the Alamo mission (area B in the diagram), needs to be better defined as a separate area, as it originally was the Plaza de Valero, outside the mission walls.



MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE BEXAR (1836)

- A** The Alamo - Site of original mission surrounded by buildings and walls
- B** Plaza de Valero - open plaza outside of Alamo entrance
- C** Approximation of El Camino Real

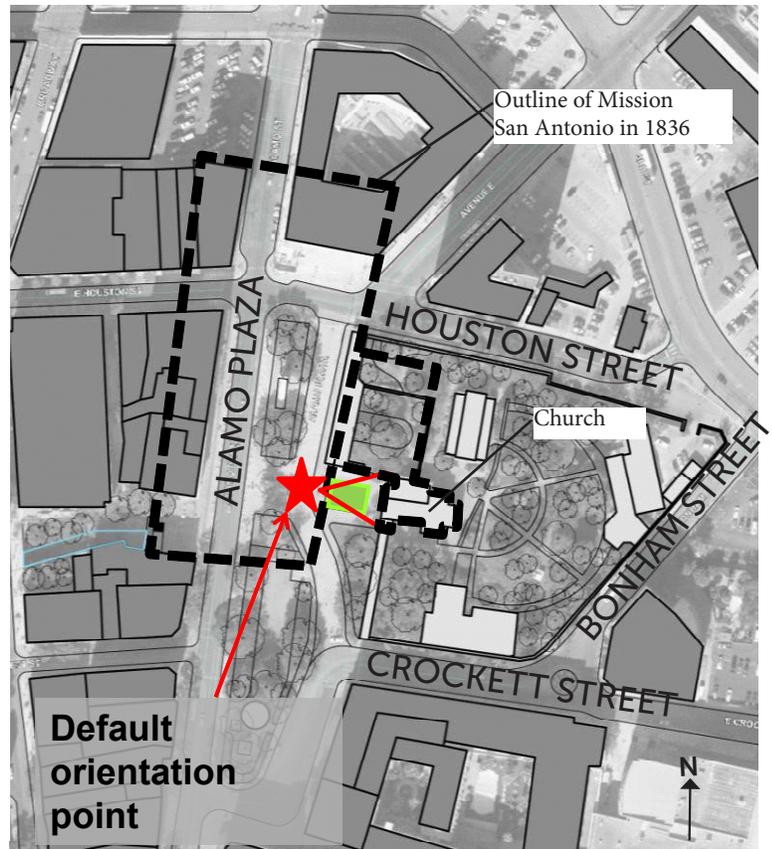
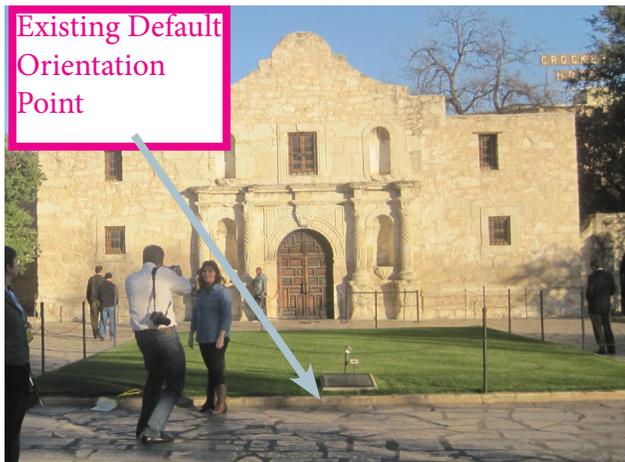


ORIENTATION, SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, AND INTERPRETATION

The existing 'default orientation point' reinforces misconceptions that The Church = The Alamo.

OBSERVATIONS

Time lapse and site observations showed that most people walking through the Alamo stop at the bronze plaque and signs in front of the church lawn and take a picture of the facade. Thus, this 27'x50' grass lawn has become the default orientation point, always busy with people and a beacon from far away. This reinforces the misconception that the church is the Alamo, and clouds any understanding that the plaza itself is the Alamo.



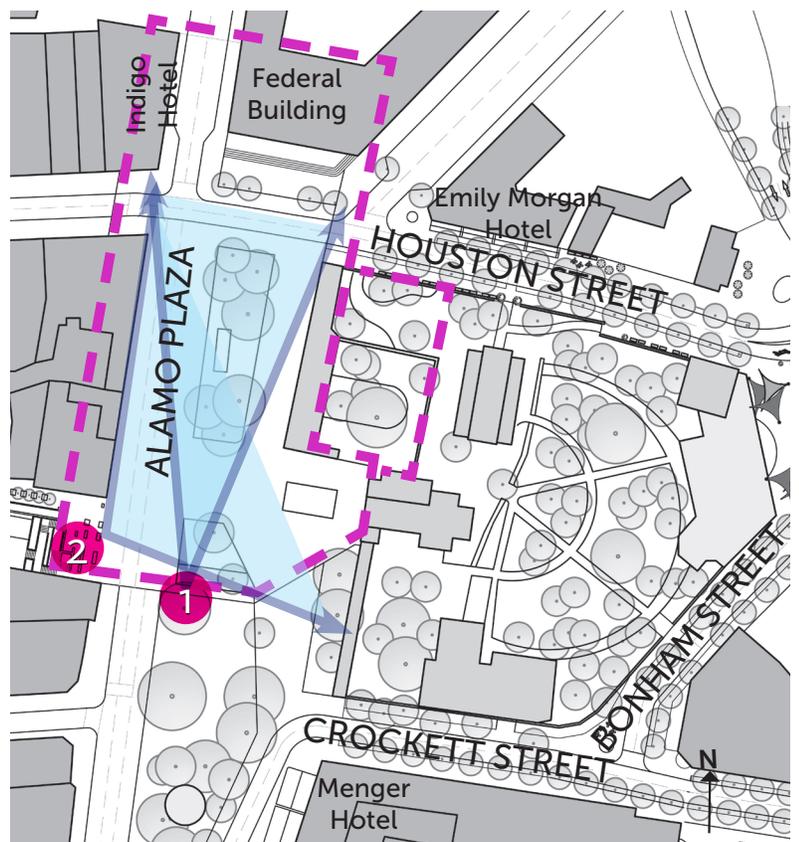
Plan showing the Existing Default Orientation Point

RECOMMENDATIONS

An easy way to help visitors identify the extents of the Alamo would be to locate an orientation point farther back from the church, in a location that brings the larger plaza into the field of vision.

Suggested locations are: 1- the original entry to the 1836 Mission (Main Gate) or 2- close to the entrance to the Paseo del Alamo (at the original West wall). Benefits of the Main gate location: this point will orient visitors the same way that 1836 visitors entered the Mission grounds. Benefits of locating at the West Wall: the facade of the church is a centerpiece and could help orienting visitors.

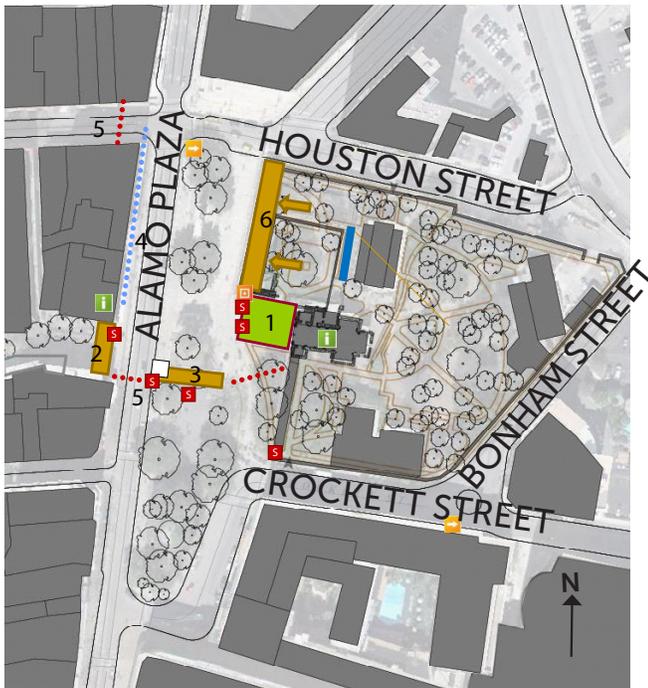
The orientation point could consist of an interpretation sign with seating and/or a kiosk where visitors could get a tour guide or rent an audio guide, and get extensive information, such as maps of the whole mission network.



Plan showing recommended orientation points

ORIENTATION, SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, AND INTERPRETATION

OBSERVATIONS



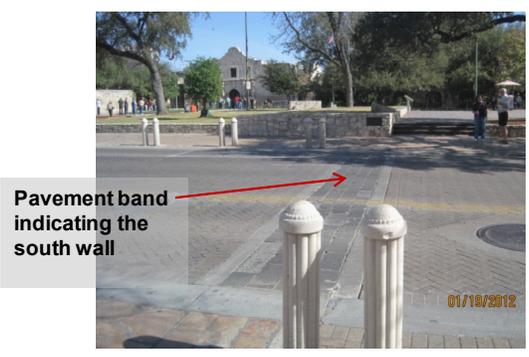
The existing interpretation

- 1- Church lawn and museum entrance
 - 2- "Ruins" outlining south west fortifications
 - 3- Planter marking south west wall (Main Gate)
 - 4- "Acequia" paving
 - 5- Decorative bands marking the compound walls
 - 6- Convento (Long Barracks) not marked and openings toward the walled area, not the Alamo
- i** Information point
 - p** Bronze plaque showing the Alamo in 1836
 - d** Directional sign
 - s** Interpretation signs or historic plaques
 - b** Museum informational boards with Texas history and Alamo changes during the years

Examples of interpretive signage



Examples of surface material interpretation



Pavement band indicating the south wall

Examples of 3D interpretation elements



Reconstruction of south west fortification foundations



Raised planting bed outlining the south west wall foundations

ORIENTATION, SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, AND INTERPRETATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

Interpretive Approach

The story of the Alamo is much deeper than that of a single siege, a single year, or a single storyline. A complete telling of its history should be inclusive of the people of all backgrounds, including the Coahuiltecan Indians, who lived in the area before, during, and after the mission era, and their role in key moments of history. Likewise, the story continues long after the battle of 1836, with key events during the Civil War, the Spanish American War, the development of downtown, preservation efforts led by advocacy groups, and of course history will continue to be made.

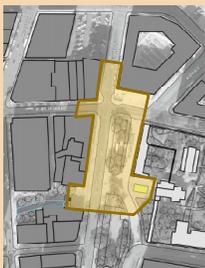
We recommend as a next step that a group form to identify and develop the stories that should be told in and around the Alamo that become the central to visitor interpretation and even to final decisions about the physical changes recommended here and in the future. Many layers of storytelling are known to local people and to historians, but remain untold to the public, including sites where historic figures lost their lives, existence of burial areas, key battle sites, such as at north wall, the longstanding relationship between Texas and Mexico, and the peoples that predated Spanish exploration of the area. Some of the more obvious opportunities for storytelling and organizing the space are included here, but more work remains in order to bring richness and a sense of satisfaction, to San Antonians and to the broader public that is moved by the Alamo, that the stories are well told.

surface material interpretation

Horizontal definition: Repave the plaza as an level surface and remove curbs

Mark the original mission grounds with new pavement and remove curbs to create an even plaza surface. Pavement used within The Alamo should be different from pavements used outside where the walls stood. Using a permeable pavement material, such as the stabilized crushed gravel used in Main Plaza, will create an environment similar to the original one.

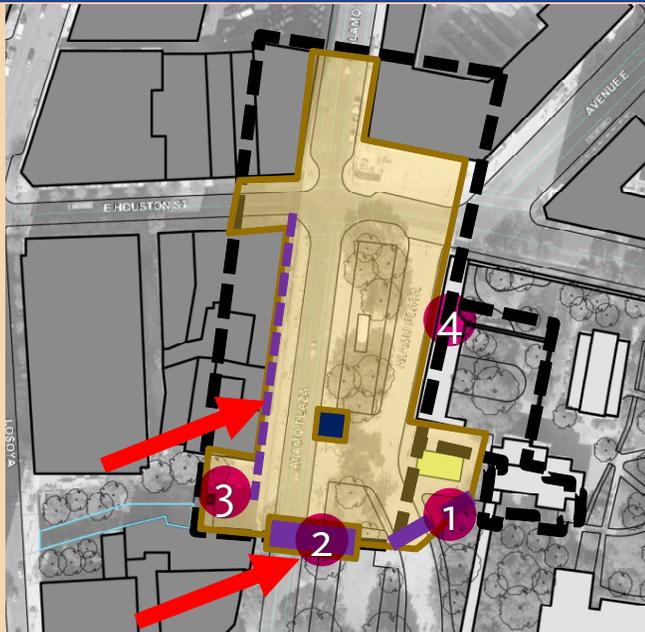
Eliminate raised planters wherever possible so the Alamo grounds stand out clearly and are more usable for events. In reconstructing Alamo Street, avoid hard curbs and use a more subtle bollard treatment to define the traveled way.



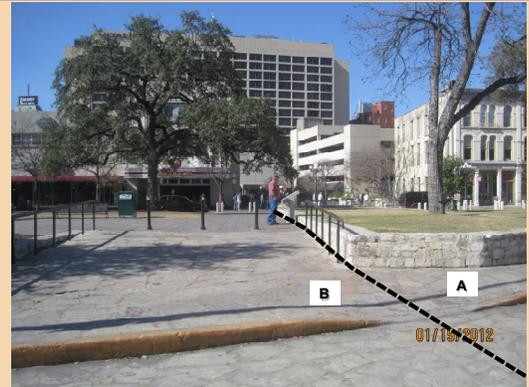
ORIENTATION, SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, AND INTERPRETATION

INTERPRETATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Vertical definition - Low Barracks - Main Gate - Campo Santo & Palisade



"If people - especially children - can actually see the door through which some noble man or woman passed, they'll be impressed, they'll remember, they'll be inspired to read



Adding few vertical elements in the Alamo Plaza will give visitors a sense of where the Alamo begins and ends, with some sense of the height and extent of the fortifications and Mission walls. Possible vertical elements to mark and interpret include:
1-Campo Santo and Palisade, the wooden battle fortification
2-South wall and Main Gate
3-Southwest corner
4-The Long Barracks roof could be opened to the public, with a freestanding platform not touching the structure, so people can stand in the position of one of the defenders or one of the missionaries.

interpretational wayfinding and signage

Interpretive wayfinding

A coordinated wayfinding system should be studied for the Alamo and surrounding destinations in walking and biking distance.

Alamo interpretation signs should be clear and visible from afar, because of the size of the Alamo Plaza; the beautiful bronze plaques and models of the mission should be incorporated in a larger and easier to locate wayfinding system. Additional interpretative tools should be added to the visit experience, including Wi-fi and interactive smartphone apps.

Locate orientation signs and maps at each entrance to the Plaza. Visitors might be encouraged to start their tour from the original Mission entrance, placing interpretative signs and elements at the original Gate.



Coordinate interpretative and directional sign with City wide signs or Riverwalk



ORIENTATION, SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, AND INTERPRETATION

Active interpretation in the Plaza



Install an interpretive station/kiosk in the Plaza with tour guides and SA Ambassadors who could provide additional orientation to destinations in the area.

Provide interpretive elements to engage children.

Add cannons in original locations, where possible: such as the west fortification and facing the main gate. Cannon emplacements will help visitors "read" the battleground and also provide photo opportunities.

If a research partner can be found, ongoing archeological digs are one more way to engage people, children included, in the history of the site.

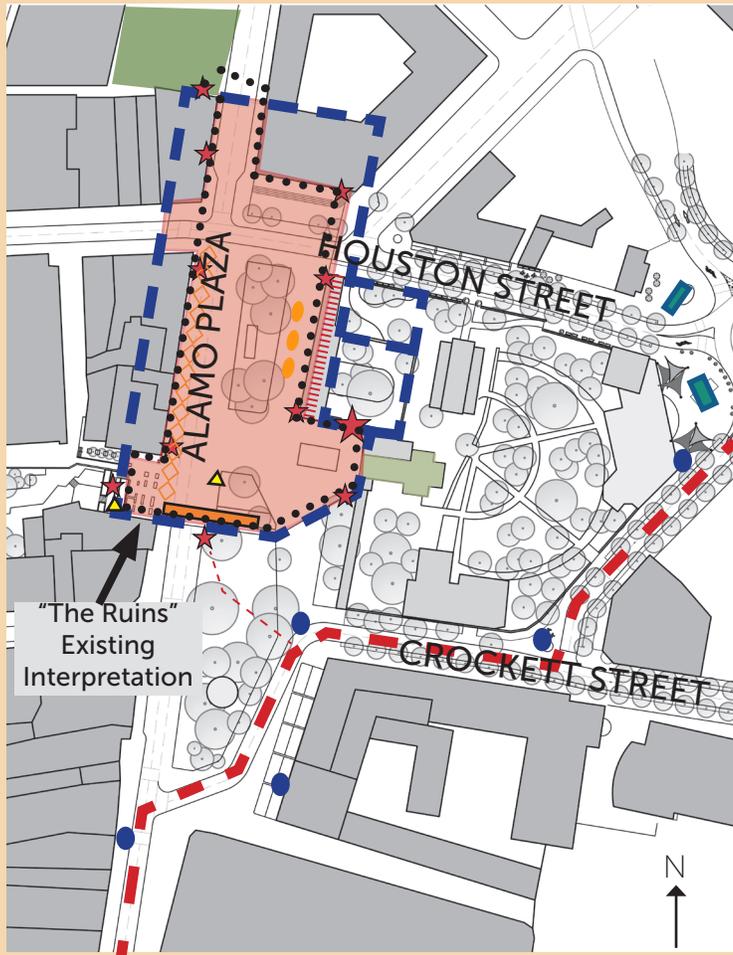
Develop a more pronounced interpretation of the Acequia

The Acequia used to be a vital part of the Mission and a stone inlay currently marks its location. Some evidence suggests it was originally flanked by a row of fruit trees on each side; if this evidence bears out, restoring trees would accentuate the acequia, soften this edge of the plaza, and provide welcome shade.

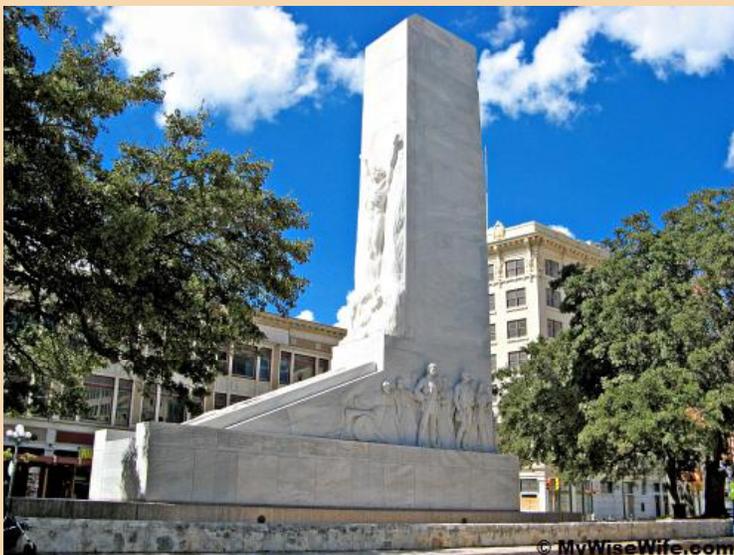


ORIENTATION, SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, AND INTERPRETATION

Summary of opportunities for interpreting the site



-  Surface Material Interpretation: Distinctive and uniform paving treatment
-  Potential location for a commemorative garden at the site of the main battle, north of the Indigo Hotel (private property)
-  Exhibits along the perimeter of the Mission to tell the story and bring people to the edges of the Mission (Interpretive Walk)
-  Relocate existing shrine informational boards in the Alamo Plaza to become a part of the Interpretive Walk
-  Vertical definition - Main Gate - Low Barrack or cemetery breastwork
-  Access to roof of the long barracks/ Convento
-  Cannon emplacement for interpretation, photo opportunity, meeting point
-  Cenotaph: relocate the monument in a more prominent and visible location, not competing with the Alamo
-  Camino Real- Create awareness of this historic route, with interpretive stops along the Alamo walls. Link to the Mission trail
-  More pronounced interpretation of the Acequia
-  Outline of Mission San Antonio in 1836

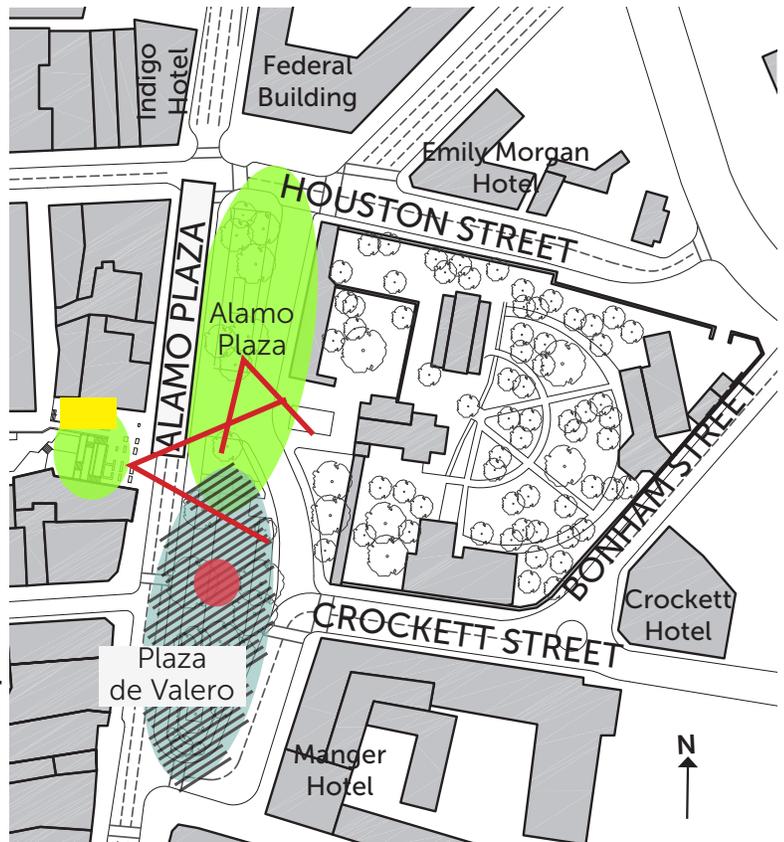


PLACES TO LINGER

OBSERVATIONS

Existing seating zones

-  Areas with Benches and few seating walls
-  Areas mostly with low seating walls
-  Sitting areas with significant
-  Viewsheds
-  Gazebo
-  B-Station bike racks
-  Bus stop



One of the most common complaints about Alamo Plaza is that there are “no places to linger”. Visitors, whether they are visiting to learn about history or just to explore downtown, have very few places to sit, reflect, view the site, or feel comfortable.

The greatest amount of seating, often in shade, is provided south of the Alamo, in Plaza de Valero. A few planters act as seat walls in The Alamo (around the Cenotaph and facing the church), and people can sit on the “ruins” that mark the southwest corner of the walls. All sitting areas share a common problem - they are not interesting for long. Without being offered some interpretive elements or entertainment or refreshment or lovely surrounding, many people leave after a few minutes. There are no places to linger and learn.

Beyond the fact that there are no places that are really inviting and engaging, there are other reasons people leave, including loud music coming from retail on Alamo Street, loud sermonizing, and the fact that none of the seating in the Plaza is comfortable (most is stone or cement walls).

The most compelling place to linger is the reconstructed foundation walls, which have a dramatic view of the church, with the Paseo del Alamo to the rear.



The reconstructed foundations of the Mission west wall provide a popular seating area: the perfect location to admire the church and the Alamo Plaza



Isolated benches at De Valero Plaza

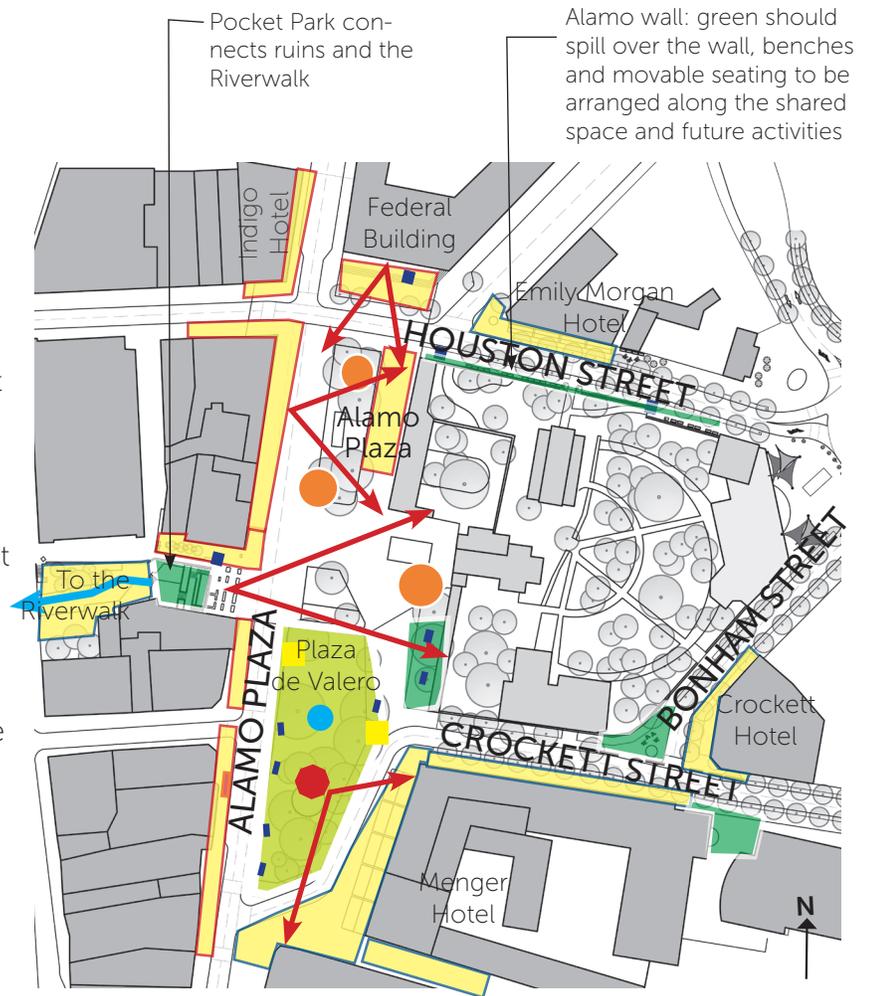
PLACES TO LINGER

RECOMMENDATIONS

Certain key places with views, shade, and adjacent points of interest, can get special treatment to become wonderful places to linger, learn, reflect, and socialize. Alamo plaza and Plaza de Valero should be distinguished from each other in terms of the level of daily activity and type of activity. In the Plaza there should be cool sitting areas, combined with interpretive elements and signs, and occasional refreshment. Calming the traffic on Alamo street will aid this enjoyment.

Reducing the noise levels coming from commercial establishments along Alamo Street is important to creating an atmosphere of respect and enjoyment in the Plaza. Improving the ambient lighting will also encourage people to linger in a safer and inviting area.

Plaza de Valero can accommodate many more amenities such as seating, plantings, a water feature, or even a small play area. Crockett, Bonham, and Houston Streets can become strolling streets with dining and retail, with a series of garden walls and pocket parks. Encouraging evening and night uses through programming, and extending stores, restaurants and cafes' hours of operation will attract residents to use these area into the evening.



Alamo wall: green should spill over the wall, benches and movable seating to be arranged along the shared space and future activities

Potential opportunities for seating and amenities

-  Movable tables, chairs and shade
-  Cafe' seating associated to retail/restaurant or business
-  Viewheds to be enhanced-Provide adequate seating for people to enjoy the views and linger
-  Group seating for tours, lectures, re-enactments (Alamo Plaza)
-  Plaza de Valero: Re-arrange existing benches, add picnic/lunch tables, seating should be in a lush garden setting; Kid's play area and seating for parents/caregivers
-  Food vendors
-  Fountain focal point and for summer cooling
-  Restore existing Gazebo: could have a storage area and open on more sides, with seating; should be used as a stage on a regular basis
-  B-Cycle Station bike racks-Relocate in a more visible area; connect to the Camino Real and the Mission Trail
-  Pocket Park with seating, lush plantings and horticultural displays, a place to have lunch and gather with friends

PLACES TO LINGER

RECOMMENDATIONS

Make Alamo Plaza a Comfortable Place

Alamo Plaza should have several kind of sitting areas to accommodate visitors, allow for small gatherings, encourage residents and visitors alike to use the plaza. Seating should support the programming and interpretation. All amenities and activities in the Plaza should be tasteful and respectful of the historic grounds.

Amenities:

- Lighting - The church is well lit, but the surroundings should also have a pedestrian level lighting.
- Additional food vendors should be allowed in combination with some sitting areas. The current vending ordinance should be revisited.
- Amenity and seating areas are also places to target shade trees, umbrellas and even mechanical means of cooling small areas during hot months.



Central Cenotaph Amenity Zone

The Cenotaph monument is currently the centerpiece of Alamo Plaza, taking up a large part of the plaza and making it even harder to “read” the plaza, or use it for events and reenactments.

However, it does include many large trees that can become a shady place with much more seating, along with interpretation.

By moving the “history talks” areas from inside the walls to the Plaza, a more comfortable area for gathering can be created.



PLACES TO LINGER

RECOMMENDATIONS

Build up “The Ruins” and River Walk connection

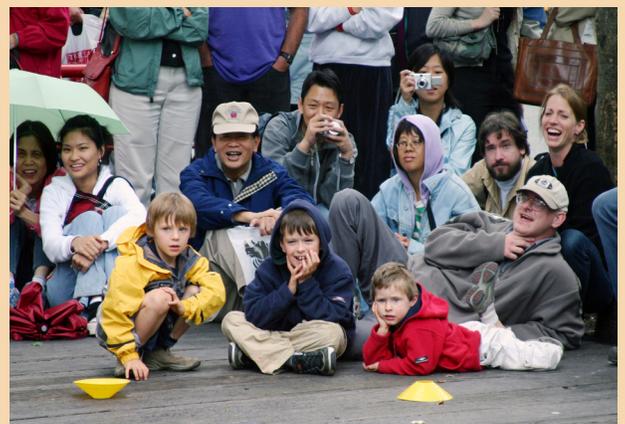
- The ruins could be a much stronger node for visitors, linking to the existing Visitor Center.
- By capitalizing on the finest view of the church, the ruins can become a place for people to stop and sit.
- A refreshment kiosk and canopied seating will create a comfortable environment for people to stay a little longer.
- Improving the masonry walls (“ruins”) and adding plantings will create a visually stimulating connection from the Alamo Plaza to the lower level of the Riverwalk.
- This is an excellent location to also have an information kiosk.



Plaza de Valero: Community activities plaza

Plaza de Valero, as a separate space from the Alamo can accommodate more activity and amenities - at a level that some may feel is inappropriate for The Alamo.

- A historic location with higher quality shade, this space can be ideal for events and musical performances.
- An active, signature plaza here complements the attractive facades of the Menger Hotel and former Joske’s department store.
- As the original entrance to the Alamo on El Camino Real it is a natural point of orientation.
- A “shared street” treatment of Crocket Street and Plaza de Valero will allow activities to spill onto the street and Plaza de Valero



ACTIVITY ZONES

Alamo Plaza and Valero should be distinguished from each other in terms of the level of daily activity. If the Plaza is the place to linger, learn and enjoy, or attend special events, Plaza de Valero, can become a busy public space that helps activate and reinforce existing retail and restaurants.

Triangulation is the concept of clustering activities together to create a busy, dynamic place for many different types of people at different times of day. For example, movable seating “triangulates” with a pond, toy sailboats, and a cafe to create a very full experience in one area of Central Park. In Luxembourg Gardens, the combination of a puppet theatre, carousel, café, bocce court, and basketball court around a children’s play area makes a busy but tasteful destination for all ages. One test of how well a place triangulates is to evaluate how long the typical person stays there. If most people stay in a public place for 20 minutes, then what more could be layered on to lengthen that visit to one, two or three hours? Another indicator is how many different age groups use a place. If it is only people between 18 and 30, then what other activities could attract those younger and older?



Aker Brygge Waterfront in Oslo, Norway: Any of these elements in isolation would fail to create a strong draw, but when grouped for triangulation, as at the Aker Brygge waterfront, a sum much greater than the parts is created and a bustling destination results.

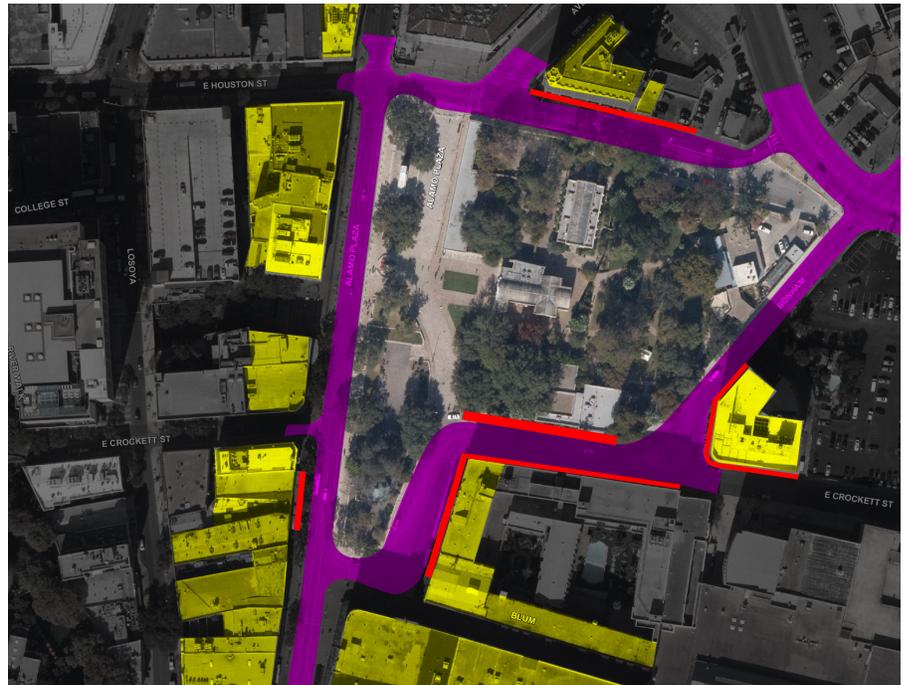
ACTIVITY ZONES

OBSERVATIONS

Edge Assessment

Edge businesses most suited to have an exterior orientation are inhibited. In other words, there is no “plaza effect” for retail and restaurants. High-potential businesses that could provide plaza activation include Menger Block retail, the Emily Morgan and Crockett Hotels, and the bistro at the Indigo Hotel. In addition, with the right street treatment to lend a better atmosphere, Crockett Street could become a strong business location.

We also recommend that The Alamo shrine grounds behind the walls should open up more entrances - the openings in the wall already exist, and using more of them would help activate Bonham and Crockett especially.



Click below for videos (PPS):

[Alamo Chapel](#)

[Alamo Plaza - Busy](#)



ACTIVITY ZONES

RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve the central plaza for events

Future plans for the central plaza (Cenotaph area) should build on its size, centrality, and shade to better function for special events. Improvements to corners of this area should accommodate outdoor café seating at Indigo, which will have high visibility.

Event space opportunities:

- Interpretation events, re-enactments, folklorico, authentic markets
- 'Chili Queens' fest.
- Evening/night markets
- Book markets
- Arts and crafts fairs

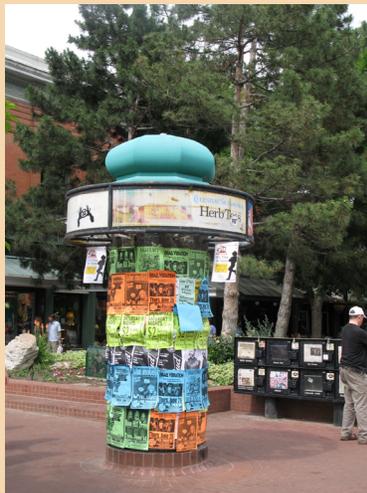


Distinguish the Plaza de Valero

The historic Plaza de Valero is distinct from Alamo Plaza and can accommodate higher intensity activity and should complement the existing edge uses, like the attractive Menger Hotel/ former Joske's Department Store buildings and retail spaces.

As the historic location for events and music, the area should function as the focal point for San Antonio residents and should be fine tuned to meet their needs.

Plaza de Valero is the original entrance to the Alamo along El Camino Real, making it a natural orientation point, meriting wayfinding and interpretational signage throughout.



A MORE WALKABLE DISTRICT



The Alamo, Plaza de Valero, and the Camino Real really only make sense when they are thought of as a whole district that is a sequence of spaces that are well defined, but also well integrated with each other. By addressing the opportunity to connect Alamo Plaza to these surrounding spaces and streets, we also magnify the impact of this most important attraction in the city. Along Crockett, Bonham, East Houston, and Alamo Street, we find great opportunities to leverage a short visit into a stay that might be several hours in length that would support a wide variety of high-quality retail and food destinations.

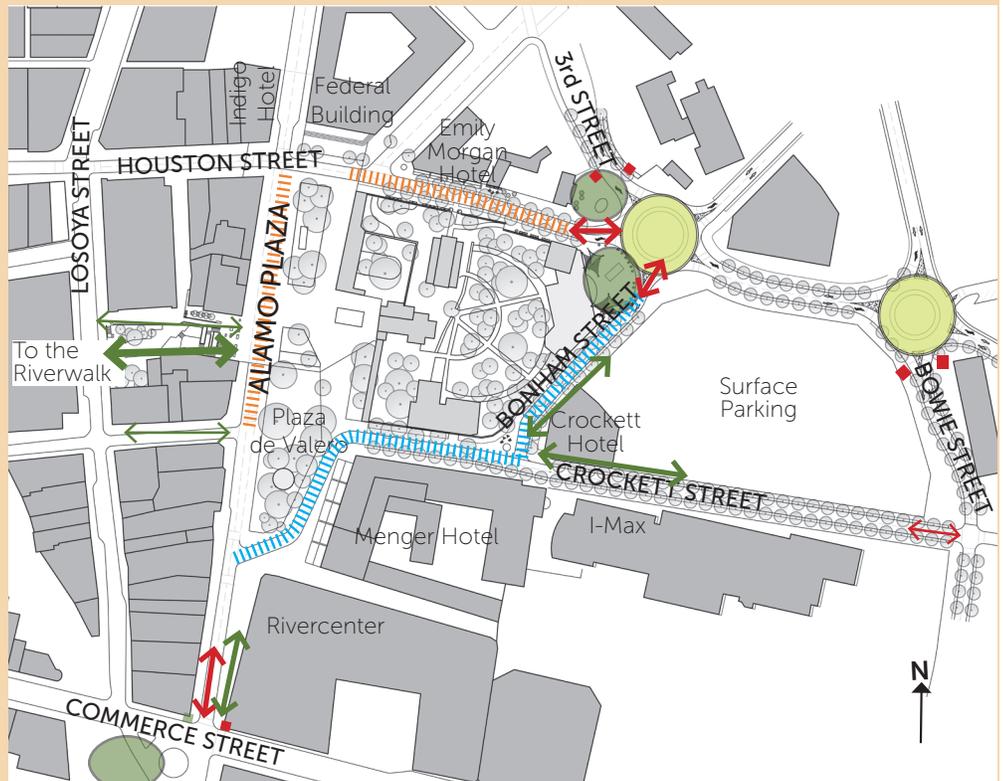
A MORE WALKABLE DISTRICT

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Alamo District: Gateways and connections to surrounding areas

Reclaim the district for pedestrians - create a sense of arrival into the Alamo district, with visible gateways, wayfinding to the district destinations, and streets designed for people more than cars.

-  Improve vehicular entrances to the Alamo District
-  Enhance existing pedestrian entrances to the District
-  Gateways to the Alamo: Mark the entrances to the Alamo district with Art, distinctive crosswalks, planters, horticultural displays, special lighting and banners
-  Proposed roundabouts to slow vehicular traffic, make drivers aware they are entering the Alamo District area; create an easier access to the Alamo
-  Create opportunities for active plazas at the district entrances; should have activities along the edges
-  Shared street treatment with managed closures for activities; limited traffic
-  Shared street with paving to indicate the Camino Real



Develop city policies and guidelines to foster outdoor merchandising, food vendors and restaurant/cafes sidewalk seating



Shared Streets in the Alamo District

Creating few shared streets (or shared spaces) at key locations in the Alamo District will help the district to become a street environment that is shared equally by all users including bicyclists, pedestrians, public transit, as well as vehicles. By getting rid of curbs, treating the whole street as if it were a sidewalk, and even eliminating traffic signage, shared spaces force drivers to navigate spaces at very slow speeds, negotiating their way slowly between other users. They have proven to be much safer and much more friendly to people than traditional streets.

Alamo Plaza between Houston and Crockett

Alamo Plaza and Alamo Street will be redefined as shared spaces once they are repaved, as recommended, to restore the plaza at one level. Without curbs, and in a narrower configuration, the street will take on an entirely different character more in keeping with the surroundings and the pedestrian volumes, and far lower speeds.

The city can then experiment with Alamo Plaza, closing it at peak times (weekends, for example) and during events. If closure of the street is overwhelmingly popular, the city may even leave it closed on a semipermanent basis. This street configuration is also friendly to transit, there being examples around the world of streetcars that cross busy, historic plazas.

Businesses should set up tables and chairs, awnings or umbrellas for shade and movable furniture close to their storefront; additional movable furniture should be scattered throughout the Plaza and managed by the Alamo.

The enhancement of the Acequia with rows of trees will provide a nice setting for seating in the afternoon shade and looking at the expanse of the Alamo Plaza.



East Houston as a Shared Street between Alamo and 3rd

Widen sidewalks in front of the Emily Morgan Hotel and along the walls of the Alamo. A shared street treatment, with decorative pavement, pedestrian scale lighting, and wall gardens will create a beautiful space for street dining in the evening, accompanied by live music and lighting. During the day this section of Houston could be used for bus drop-off and pick-up and complete the access to the Alamo museum.



Bonham, Crockett and the Caminos Reales

Bonham, Crockett and Alamo Plaza South are believed to roughly follow the path of the Caminos Reales, historically the main route to the Mission ("Texas' first interstate"). This history and significance should be highlighted with signage, special paving and wayfinding; drivers on Bonham Street may have no idea that they are following a path trod centuries before by Native Americans, Spanish

conquistadors and early Texas settlers. The Camino real interpretation should also include the Mission Trail.

Commerce Street gateway

From Commerce Street and the Torch of Friendship there should be a gateway to the Alamo and Valero, with "processional" approach to the Plaza, made up of wayfinding stations. With plans for the Rivercenter Mall's renovation, it is crucial to make its ground floor active with shop entrances along the sidewalk as often as possible. The retail choices for the corners of the building should be carefully studied; the Rivercenter original main entrance should be open to Plaza de Valero and be a destination retail. The east sidewalk is wide enough to accommodate street vendors in the short term.

East Houston from Alamo to Losoya

This block of Houston Street is a key link between downtown retail and the Alamo; it should also function as one of the gateways to the Plaza. The Alamo Plaza treatment should support Houston Street retail - the ground floor corner businesses at the intersection should be visible from the Plaza and attract visitors and wayfinding should direct people downtown.

One of the key businesses is the Bistro operating in the corner of the Indigo Hotel. Opening up sidewalk seating would create an immediate amenity facing the plaza.



The Indigo Bistro outdoor seating, seen from Houston and Avenue E.

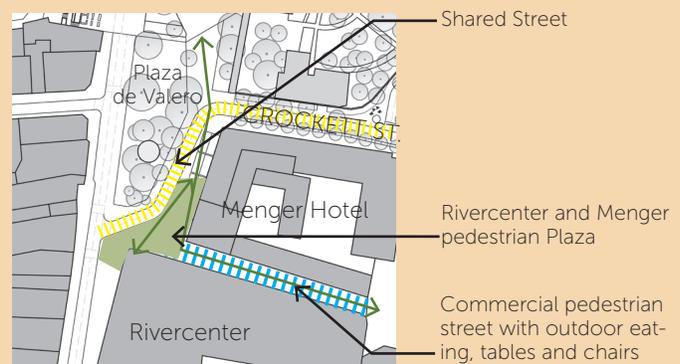
Indigo Bistro seating would also be visible from the Alamo Plaza

Bonham and Crockett as Shared Streets

With the Menger Block retail, the Crockett Hotel, and Crockett Street's high foot traffic from Rivercenter Mall, Crockett and Bonham Streets should become shared spaces, where bicycles, pedestrians and slow traffic all share the street.

Crockett Street in front of the Menger Hotel should have a plaza paving treatment that unifies Plaza de Valero with the sidewalk in front of the Hotel. This will energize the existing retail and restaurant uses and enliven the Plaza de Valero, which can provide tables and chairs for adjacent restaurants.

↔ Future heavy pedestrian traffic



summary & implementation



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Orientation, Spatial Organization & Interpretation

Identify the central stories that should be told through interpretation, being careful to tell a complete story that honors all the people who see it as a site of major significance

Create a centrally located active interpretation presence in Alamo Plaza

Establish “horizontal” and “vertical” definition to the Plaza

Explore additional elements for interpretation:

- Enhanced Acequia

- North Wall Commemorative Garden

- Relocate Cenotaph

- Interpretive Walk

Activities and Amenities

Create places to linger, with more passive amenity spaces in the Alamo

Create Plaza Valero as a signature destination and active zone

Better utilize the central plaza as a significant event space

“Manage up” the experience by creating a stimulating mix of public programs, entertainment, and appropriate commercial activity

Raise the bar of materials and amenities in Alamo Plaza to be on par with other great public spaces around the world

A Walkable District

Reclaim the district as a place that makes pedestrians a priority, using a Shared Streets approach

Enhance the district as a destination through dining, music, performance, lighting, night-time uses and management

Cultivate edge uses and streets as places to support retail

Upgrade the overall treatments of streets, plaza spaces, retail areas, and gardens

IMPLEMENTATION PHASING

SHORT TERM and "LIGHTER, QUICKER, CHEAPER"

Upgrade and Add New Seating

A critical component of making a great place is actively encouraging sociability on a variety of different levels. Comfortable seating, and especially moveable seating, can be a very successful tool for getting the elderly to linger, families to feel comfortable and visitors and residents alike to modify the site to their whims, supporting a sense of ownership of the Place. Inexpensive but striking seating can be a crux in shifting how a place functions from one that is uninviting to a real destination.



Creative Activation that Attracts Locals

Street performances, entertainment, vending, and other new retail should be aimed at attracting locals, while still welcoming visitors with authentic offerings. Consider pop-up cafes with (above specified) outdoor moveable seating to activate the edges of the Plaza. Plan and organize daily performances with local musicians and arts groups - attract new partners/partnerships. Prioritize local food purveyors, like "Chili Queen," to encourage a diversity services.



Temporary Alamo Street Closings

Special events are the impetus for experimental closures of streets to traffic and trying out the idea of a shared street. We recommend that the city enthusiastically program Alamo, East Houston, Crockett and Bonham in the short term with events, reenactments, vending, music, and the like.



IMPLEMENTATION PHASING

SHORT - MEDIUM TERM

Improve Shade, Lighting and Greenery in the Entire Area

Coordinating climate control efforts, additional plantings as well as improved lighting will contribute a great deal to the overall comfort of the place, making Alamo Plaza a site that welcomes returning residents (who will come back again and again) and one-time visitors.



Bring the History into the Plaza; Interpretative Displays and Information Kiosk

Develop a “place-based” history program, incorporating new outdoor interpretive displays, tours, information kiosks, and more. Bring the signage on the barrack walls into the plaza area. Install new interpretive displays throughout. Create an interpretive trajectory, or logical path, for visitors throughout the entire site. Develop new directional signage in accordance with interpretive displays.



“Manage Up”

One of the most challenging, yet most important, components of a great Place is tying together all the elements, including the recommendations included in this report, new and existing stakeholders and the general management of a complicated and delicate historical site. Manage up for the highest quality experience, whether it be tourists, residents or other users of the space.



IMPLEMENTATION PHASING

LONG TERM

Upgrade the Overall Treatments of Streets, Plaza spaces, Retail Areas, and Gardens

Make physical improvements to accommodate new uses and support existing ones. In particular, street and sidewalk improvements should cater to the needs of local retail and accommodate the types of businesses and activities that support a vibrant public space, like small locally-owned shops, active street life, and welcoming (and cooling) greenery.



Repave the Plaza

Use historically and/or traditionally-influenced materials to delineate the Alamo and Plaza de Valero and to create the shared space that cars will travel through. Find a material that can accommodate a variety of uses and hold up under heavy usage.



Study and Construct New Structures that Define South Boundary of Alamo

Develop a strategy for interpreting the vertical elements (like the south wall) in a way that supports the central stories of the interpretation. Research historical evidence to support the design and construction of appropriate new structures that honor the history, without creating a sense of faux history.





ATTACHMENT 7
Ground Rules

Ground Rules

All comments are good and will be considered

Focus on the topic of discussion and the task

Be clear and concise in making your comments and expressing your thoughts

Be a good listener and respect all points of view—listening does not require agreement

Avoid talking while others are speaking

Respect agreements about time

ATTACHMENT 8
History of the Mission San Antonio de Valero
Property

History of the Mission San Antonio de Valero Property

1718 - the mission was established near San Pedro Springs

1719 - second mission site was developed

1724 - mission destroyed by hurricane and it was rebuilt on the current site

1744 - first stone church built, collapsed

1762 - the Alamo church was built on the current site

1793 - Mission San Antonio de Valero secularized and soon abandoned

1802 – Spanish Calvary unit, the Segunda Compania Volante de San Carlos de Parras del Alamo take up residence until 1810, at which point it was abandoned

1821- 1835 Utilized as a fort by the Mexican Army

1835 - the surrender of the Alamo by General Cos to the Texians

1836 – Battle of the Alamo

April 21, 1836 – Final Battle for Texas Independence. When the Mexican army retreated from Texas they tore down many of the Alamo walls and burned some of the buildings.

1838- Sam Maverick moves his family to a two story home at the northwest corner of the old Alamo Compound

1840 – City Council sold stones from the Alamo Wall

1841 – Catholic Church given custodianship of the grounds and church by the Republic of Texas

1841 -1842 Mexicans reoccupy the Alamo on two occasions (General Vasquez and then General Woll)

1845 - Texas annexed by US government

1848 –Alamo is leased to the US Army with Catholic Church still as landlord over the chapel and grounds

1848 – Sam Maverick begins purchasing and subdividing the land around the old Alamo compound, thus having a great influence in the evolution of Alamo Plaza.

1849 Alamo already in use as a quartermaster depot as soon as it was restored

June 9, 1853 - City Council granted permission for US Army to use Alamo as a quartermaster depot. During the Civil War the Alamo was occupied by the Confederacy. The Army left in 1876 after Fort Sam Houston was established.

1877 - After the US Army moved out the Catholic Church sold the old convent building to Honore Grenet who built a mercantile store around the old convent building .

1880's – City streets are developed and the area outside the chapel and the convent inside the walls becomes know as Alamo Plaza

1881- Mr. Grenet died and his heirs sold the old convent building to merchants Charles Hugo and Gustavo Schmeltzer.

1883- The Catholic Church sold the Alamo (chapel) to the State of Texas for \$20,000 , then the State placed the Alamo (chapel) in the custody of the City on condition that the City care for the building and pay a custodian for that purpose. This system continued until January 25, 1905, when the Texas legislature passed a resolution ordering the governor to purchase that part of the old Alamo fortress occupied by a business concern. It was further ordered that the governor should deliver the property thus acquired, with the property then owned by the state (the chapel of the Alamo), to the [Daughters of the Republic of Texas](#).

1883 – City Engineer proposes new property lines for Alamo Plaza

July 27, 1885 the City hired Tom Rife, the Alamo's first custodian

1888- Alderman Anton Wulff called for building four paved streets around the plaza and landscaping a garden in the center

1890 – US Post Office constructed on the current site

1902 – Adina De Zavala enters into agreement with Gustav Schmeltzer to promise to not to sell or offer the property (old convent building) to anyone else.

March 1903 – Driscoll pays Hugo –Schmeltzer \$500 for 30 day option then an additional sum of \$4500 is used to extend option until February 10, 1904 giving the DRT enough time to raise \$75,000 to purchase January 26, 1905 – The Twenty-ninth legislature of the State of Texas appropriates \$65,000 to purchase the Alamo (old convent Building) and custodianship of both the chapel and old convent is transferred to DRT.

1915 – Alamo Plaza repaved

1930's – Grassy square and flagstone added in front of Alamo (chapel)

1931 – Driscoll convinces State to purchase two tracts of land between the chapel and Crockett Street.

1935 – Driscoll convinces the City not to place a fire station near the Alamo and DRT later purchases that building and turns it into the DRT library.

1936 – Texas Centennial

1937 – Current U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse building at the corner of E. Houston and N. Alamo Streets is built

1939 – Cenotaph built

1961 - Eugene George does the HABS (Historic American Building Survey) and put on file at the Library of Congress, the first documented architectural drawings of the Alamo

1960s - restoration of the now one-story convento to the Long Barracks Museum

1988 – Alamo Plaza for Parks and Recreation Department by Andrew Perez Associates

1994 – In February, a hearing is held regarding the closure of East Alamo between Crockett Street and Houston Street. The recommendation to form a committee to study the entire Mission San Antonio de Valero site is made. A committee is appointed in March and the Committee's report is presented in October.